

# Isekai Yururi Kikou ~Raising Children While Being an Adventurer

## Prologue.

Tree, tree, tree...

Turning around 360 degrees, there are thick trees growing everywhere I look.

A lonely forest with no roads, my feet get covered in bushes with every step.

I can see a faint light through a gap of the branches so it's daytime, but because of the crowded trees, the overall mood is gloomy.

Syl..... wasn't there a little better starting place?

Why here? There should have been many alternatives, right?

"Gururururu."

The person who I separated from a little while ago would probably permit me a complaint or two... While thinking so, I suddenly hear a beast's growl and look around in panic.

Certainly, a beast is running towards me——A Red Wolf.

Red Wolf is a red, large-breed dog-like wolf monster. If I'm not mistaken, it's a Rank C?

It has completely marked me as its prey.

I have no confidence because I'm improvising, but I can't just stand here and let it attack me, so I point my hand like a pistol at the Red Wolf.

"Air Shot."

At the same time I shout, a lump of air shoots from my finger.

I fire compressed air magic which resembles a bullet.

The air bullet hits the target, the Red Wolf "Gyain." whines and gets blown off backward.

I feel relieved that I hit the target properly, but I'm still cautious in case it can still move.

"This from the very beginning....."

Haa... I sigh, approach the Red Wolf's dead body and store it with "Infinite Storage".

## Chapter 1

Who are you?

“I am terribly sorry!”

Who are you?

An unknown silver-haired youth is suddenly prostrating in front of me on the floor.

Around 20 years old..... I think he's younger than me.

Because he's facing the floor without flinching, I can't see his face.

I don't understand..... why? I think that he surely has a well-featured face.

The reason why he's prostrating in front of me is unknown.

Because I have woken up in this unknown place just several minutes ago.

That's right.

Before I noticed, I already was in a room I don't recognize.

A room surrounded by white walls from every direction.

The size is around 8 tatami, I think..... There are two white doors. There are no windows.

There are two leathered-covered sofas for two people facing each other.

A jet-black glass table is in between the sofas. Nothing else is here aside from that.

Hmm..... because of the white walls, this room seems like a “typical” president's office.

Well, that does not matter, though.

Since I don't recognize this place, is this a kidnapping?

I thought so at first, but I'm not restricted and above all, I think that the kidnapper is quite a considerable person.....

After wandering around the room aimlessly, I return my sight at the youth on the floor.

Yeah, he's still lowering his head.

Is that it? You won't do anything unless I say something?

I would already like the explanation.

Can't be helped, let's greet him first.

“Ah~ Umm, who are you and what do you want from me after bringing me here?”

When I spoke, the youth finally raised his head.

Yep, as expected, he's a terrible handsome young man.

Green eyes together with silver hair. A tall figure with facial features that would put Hollywood stars to shame.

The clothes he is wearing are plain and white, but that makes him look rather attractive.

I can't find any faults.

This goes past envy, it may be worthy of respect.

While I'm on such topic, he was also staring back at me who is impolitely observing him.

..... He's still sitting on the floor, though.

Because he was looking at me like that, I had to tell him □Wait□ as I would command a dog.....

This, am I the bad guy? Am I getting misunderstood? I'm not a bad person, though!

He has been apologizing since the beginning, so I shouldn't be at fault. Probably!

“..... How do you do? I'm Kayano Takumi.”

“Thank you kindly for the politeness. My name is Sylphreel. Please, call my Syl.”

“.....”

“.....”

Haa, he sighs and introduces himself while bowing.

He doesn't do anything aside from that.

He properly answered me. Alright, I can go ahead like this! Is what I thought, but——□

——The conversation didn't continue.....

Why did it end with self-introductions?!

Where's the follow-up? An explanation, please!

The one who knows the circumstances is you, Syl!

“..... Ah——Syl-san, who are you, where am I and why am I here?”

“No need for honorifics. ——From Takumi-san's standpoint, I'm a god. This place is called a Holy sanctuary.”

“..... Haa!?”

This youth is a god and this play is a sanctuary?

Is this a new scam?

“This is not a scam.”

“!!”

Eh? Were my thoughts just read?

“No. Although I can read minds, I didn’t read that before.”

“Then, how do you know!?”

“Somehow, I thought you wouldn’t believe so I intended to correct it.”

Nonono! You have been like an abandoned puppy a while ago, why are you suddenly so calm?

It’s strange no matter how much I think about it!?

But, I understand! I have understood that I will get only tired by talking to this person in a serious manner!

“..... Can you explain simply?”

“Ah, I’m sorry. I have killed you by mistake.”

Too simple!!

## **Chapter 2**

The explanation, please.

“Ah, I’m sorry. I have killed you by mistake.”

An unexpected murder report.

It seems I have been somehow murdered by this god.....

When we move to the sofa and I hear Syl’s explanation——

“Umm..... there appeared a “distortion” in a certain place, so I wanted to reinforce it, but I put too much power into it and it passed through. This “distortion” connected with a place where Takumi-san was at that time so... that... the great power passed through and directly hit Takumi-san...”

Haa————.....

I let out a long sigh.

According to Syl’s explanation, he didn’t have any ill intent, but I died because of a trivial (?) power measurement error.

However, it doesn’t seem like it ends here.

Under the influence of the power which directly hit my body, I have been already extinguished. He apparently narrowly pulled my soul into this sanctuary, but my

soul still received a great shock and because of that it's not able to enter the circle of reincarnation again.

This seems to be the reason Syl was prostrating before me.

Hmm..... Although I can't reincarnate again, normally, a person who died won't notice that he's reincarnated, right?

A person who remembers his previous life should be rare, right?

All my 28 years of life would get "deleted, right?

I don't know what happens after one dies naturally, but since I am able to hold a conversation like this, should I be delighted that my soul is safe?

"So, what is going happen to me from now on?"

"Eeeeh!?"

I judged that rather than worrying about death, what is going to happen to me from now on is more important so when I asked Syl made a strange face.

"Eh? Is there perhaps no after-sales service?"

Seriously!? Am I going to remain like this?

Will I remain a soul-like existence floating around?

Eh? Ghost? An unnatural existence?

"No, wrong! I have prepared for words of abuse, so Takumi-san's words just greatly surprised me."

"Ah~ Un. I have a feeling that words of abuse would be more suitable for Syl."

"....."

Although I should be angry, I don't have the recollection of actually dying. Therefore, somehow, I don't have any will to get angry.

Besides, Syl has been keeping a low profile since the beginning so I have no motivation?

If that was his intention that would make me, on the contrary, angry, but I have figured in this short time that Syl doesn't know how to properly express himself.

"It's a lie. I half-joked."

"Ha, half!?"

"Un. Half. It's true that you made a mistake in the measurement of power, reflect on it."

"..... Yes."

Un, I have figured out how to handle Syl.

Is it okay to handle a god with such attitude? Is what I thought, but since Syl doesn't seem to mind, it's alright I guess?

"I will leave depression for later. So, what is going happen to me?"

"Ah, yes. First, I will make Takumi-san a new body, then I will put your soul into it."

"A new body?"

"Yes. I will compose it for you with my power."

Syl is going to make it.....

.....

"..... I'm worried you will fail and create something strange, though."

I'm somewhat uneasy..... Syl, he looks like the clumsy type...

Physical limbs are missing! Is not what will probably happen, but... I'm worried about the things with normal functions.....

"I won't! It's all right!! I will use all my power to create a proper one!!"

"I have a feeling that all your power is dangerous, so stop it. Create it carefully..... and then."

"Yes, I will do my best! Unfortunately, because Takumi-san's new body will have my power dwelling inside, it won't be able to return back to Earth. Therefore, I will move you to a different world I manage—Aetherdia. Right, it would be called a different world for Takumi-san."

Aetherdia is the world with five gods.

- God of Creation, Marianora
- Fire God, Salamanteel
- Water God, Windell
- Wind God, Sylphreel
- Earth God, Nomoodle
- The God of Creation, Marianora-sama is the chief god. Syl and the others support Marianora-sama.

And it's apparently the well-known world of sword and magic.

"Fu~n. I have no physical ability, won't I easily die, though?"

"It's all right! I will make you a healthy body, after all! Also, I will give you skills!!"

"Skills, huh..."

"That's right! Skills!! Do you have something, in particular, you would like?"

"Let's see..... First, not knowing the language would be unconventional."

Language is important. Not having a mutual understanding spells trouble.

"Language and common knowledge are easy to insert to the body, don't worry about it. Also, I will attach an appraisal skill."

"That's good, I will leave it to you. Also, an item box! Do you have something like that?"

When it comes to a different world, it's an item box, right?

The difficulty will change depending on its existence.

"There are high capacity magic tools called Magic Bag, but I recommend a variety of space magic 'Infinite Storage' which also stops the passage of time."

"Oh~ that's it! I would also want some self-defense magic or technique."

"I understand. If you don't have any specifications, I will choose for you, is that all right?"

Infinite Storage! Sounds nice. Stopping the passage of time sounds attractive.

Something to protect the body with is left!

Magic has lots of possibilities, huh... And it's not like I will be able to use a weapon.....

I don't understand the varieties of magic, will it be okay to leave it to Syl? He's more or less a god, he will probably choose something suitable, right?

"I will leave it to you. Also, please don't throw me out penniless."

"I understand. It has been decided to use my attribute, wind magic for now then. I will insert the knowledge on using magic inside the body, okay! Also, I will put a necessary amount of money inside the Infinite Storage!"

Syl is the Wind God, after all. Speaking of wind magic, Wind Cutter and Air Bullet are basic, right? Well~ If he inserts the knowledge inside the body, will I be able to use magic reflexively? That will be helpful if that's the case.

Oh, moreover, not just money. What about an item! I want to ask.

"Are you ready? Takumi-san will have to sleep while I insert the soul inside the body, do you have something you want to ask before it's too late?"

"Un? Is this the last time we can talk?"

"Talking directly won't be possible for a while. If you pray towards my statue in a shrine, we should be able to converse."

"Is it all right to contact a god?"

"Yes. There won't be any problem. There might be a time when I'm busy and unable to answer, but it should be okay to contact me anytime."

Language is okay. Knowledge is good. Essential skills and items are prepared.

Is it all right?

“I can’t think of anything right now, I will rely on the shrine if I have something.”

“Yes. I will be waiting for you. I have caused you trouble. The next time you wake up, you will be in that world. Please, enjoy your new life without fail.”

I nod to Syl and my consciousness fades away.

Ah, I forgot to tell Syl to emphasize the work on my appearances.

### **Chapter 3**

I have arrived, different world.

——And I return to the beginning.

“Umm... ‘Open’.”

First, in order to confirm the situation, I open the menu by relying on the inserted knowledge. Then, a black, half transparent window screen appears in front of me.

This is one of the special abilities Syl has given me.

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### **Status**

Name: Takumi Kayano

Race: Human? Wind God’s retainer (Temporary)

Occupation: —

Age: 20

Level: 3

### **Skills**

- Light Magic 50
- Dark Magic 50
- Wind Magic 150
- Space Magic 100
- Life Magic 100
- Swordsmanship 50
- Throwing 18
- Appraisal 200
- Dismantling 100
- Cooking 85
- Sewing 23

- Washing 12
- Cleaning 31
- Crafting 37
- Arithmetics 107
- Reading 125
- Physical Attack Resistance 300
- Magic Attack Resistance 300

## **Titles**

- Transmigrated From a Different World
- Blessed by the God of Creation, Marianora

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A status screen appeared.

Alright, the name is my full name. Those with Family name are nobility! Though there are cases like that, it should be all right.

Eeeh!? Race! Question mark!? I, I am not a human?

Rather, a follower? I have become god's retainer (Temporary)!? I didn't hear anything about this, Syl!!

Why!? Is what I thought, but thinking about it carefully, this body was made by Syl so it's probably because of that.....? He said something about his power dwelling inside..... it can't be helped at this time..... let's leave it at that.

Class. Blank space. Well, that's right.

20 years old... I became younger.....

Level 3. Un? ..... Ah, did my level raise after killing the Red Wolf? Then, no problems here.

Skills are..... relatively decent...? To be honest, I thought Syl might forget because he's like that. Yep, I'm somehow relieved.

Let's see..... the numbers are proficiency? 50 is generally "more or less usable", over 100 is skilled. Over 200 is master rank. 300 is MAX? Getting that far is a miracle.

I see~ Looking at the proficiency numbers of the skills, the magic and such is what Syl gave me and cooking and such are what I already had originally?

Because I lived alone, cooking was mundane, I sewed my buttons and did some weekend carpentering.

Still, the resistances..... are completely strange? Proficiency is MAXED. Is this that? That thing Syl said he will choose himself? Ah, mou..... he was too enthusiastic...

Umm, next is titles. Titles are something like nicknames or aliases?

Transmigrated From a Different World..... Well~ seems right.

The God of Creation Marianora is the chief god who is supported by the four others, right?

What is a blessing? When did I receive a blessing? Well... while I was asleep, right...

But, wouldn't it say "Blessing of the Wind God's Sylphreel" normally?

—Piron♪

Ah, the titles increased.

Let's see, let's see..... "Friend of Wind God Sylphreel".....

Alright! Let's move on!

U~mm, next is.....

There's a tab beside status and item menu.

It's a map.

When I try to view that, a map appears on the whole screen. This is apparently a world map.

Rough dotted lines are drawn, country names and their capitals are displayed. There are ten countries on the main continent. One island country. And one Confederation on a small archipelago. There are 12 countries in total.

There's a forest on the south side in the center of the continent.

There's small white pin stuck in the place it says "Gaya Forest".

When I touch that pin, the map zooms in and the area around the pin becomes detailed.

Yep, this is the place I'm at. I'm sure.

When I move while looking at the map, the pin also moves. Present location found!

I slide the map away and inquire about the details of this forest.

This "Gaya Forest" is large. Furthermore, this forest passed through five countries.

Where should I go? From my present location, the Guardia Country in the east is closest. There's a town called Shirin slightly away from the forest.

Let's go there. The destination, a town called Shirin.

Umm, next is.....

The next tab is the item list. While thinking to examine that, I felt like someone was watching me, so I turned around and saw two little children looking at me.

Azure colored hair and gold eyes. Thin bodies with simple ragged clothes stained with dirt.

Judging from the atmosphere, one is a girl and one a boy, but two of them looks exactly the same.

Twins?

It's strange that there are children alone in the forest, I don't sense any other people around.

『Are you lost? Did you come here alone?』

When I ask the most plausible reason, the children tilt their heads. They look blankly at me in silence.

When I take a step forward, they take a step back.

..... They seem to be cautious of me.

I use the appraisal skill and a window appears in front of me.

It seems that appraising other people is possible.

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### **Status**

Name: —

Race: Human?

Occupation: —

Age: 5

Level: 12

### **Skills**

- Water Magic
- Hand-to-hand Combat
- Throwing
- Presence Detection
- Abnormal Status Resistance

### **Titles**

???

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It seems I'm not able to view the skill proficiency of other people.

Or is it related to the proficiency of my appraisal skill?

Nevertheless, why do I feel like the status of these two children is not normal...

The name parts are blank... it means that they don't have names, right?

Also, "human?" again. Is that race normal over here?

The titles part is question marks...

N~ what should I do? First of all, leaving like this would be inhumane...

"There's nothing to fear, won't you come over here?"

Ah, they came when I called.

I had to drop on my knees and timidly beckon them, but they approached.

"Umm, Washing... and Heal."

First, I cleaned their bodies with Life Magic. As the name suggests, Life Magic is closely related to livelihood. Wash the target with Washing, illuminate surroundings with Light, make things dry with Dry etc..... It has the smallest power, but it has a wide range of uses, it's convenient magic usable with the smallest amount of magic power.

The eyes of the two shined and blinked in surprise, but they probably judged that they are in no danger so they didn't run away.

After making their bodies clean, I could see small wounds all over their bodies so I healed them with healing magic. Healing Magic is Light attribute magic so I have it.

"All right! This is good. The next is a meal....."

They are this thin, they must be very hungry.

I check the item list while thinking so.

"Umm, there is..... money, equipment, medicine... water and food. Food is... umm..... hard-baked bread and dried meat... It seems too hard for the children right now. It seems hard to digest... Ah, fruit. Would this be easier to eat?"

The fruit, Ranka is sweet and rehydrating, it greatly resembles a peach. I retrieve fruits from the Infinite Storage and offer it to the two children.

"Here, eat up."

I place the fruit in the hands of the two children.

The two examine and sniff the Ranka fruit in their hands. After a while, they confirm that it's not dangerous and start eating.

They look like small animals.

Seeing them comfortably eating, I once again confirm the contents of the item list.

"There's also... raw meat, vegetables, and wheat flour..... huh....."

..... Syl. Even if you give me ingredients, I can't cook without seasonings.....

—Piron♪

Ah, an item was added.

A set of kitchen utensils and seasonings were added to the item list after I complained towards Syl. Seems like Syl confirmed the circumstances over here and send me the items.

There's only one thing I can do!

I would love tableware. Additional change of clothes and towels would be nice.

Ah, there a considerable distance from here to the nearest town. An overcoat or blanket would really help for camping.

—Piron♪

I heard a mechanical sound from somewhere and a large number of items was added to the list.

..... Yep. Syl, thank you.

While I was doing that, the children finished eating the fruit and jii~ were staring at me.

Because the clothes added to the item list were not only for me, but even for the children, I decided to change their clothes.

I click on the "Clothes" on the item list and retrieve clothes from the Infinite Storage.

"Isn't it too tight, can you move freely?"

Oh, they nodded. It seems all right.

These children, although they do not talk, they properly understand me, right?

"I'm now going to leave the forest and go to the nearby town, do you want to go together with me?"

I can't leave the children here so I ask them, the two children look at each other.

They seem to be conversing. Although they are not talking...

Is that it? The mutual understanding between twins?

They look at me. Did they decide? Nodding means they want to go with me, right?

"I'm Takumi. Best regards."

## **Chapter 4**

Fellow Travellers

As expected, those two don't have names.

Therefore—

“All right, I decided! You are Allen. And you are Elena.”

I think it would be inconvenient from now on if they didn’t have names, I named the boy Allen, and the girl Elena.

I somehow felt these names would be suitable.

Were the names appropriate? Allen and Elene seem satisfied so it’s okay.

When I checked their statuses, it had already recognized them as Allen and Elena.

I don’t know what criteria it has been decided on, but changing it again is now impossible. Hahaha~!

In such a way, the three of us peacefully walk through the forest.

The two children are thin, but they have stamina. They are following me without complaining.

However, because they are without a doubt, children, I take a break and let them drink water and eat dried persimmons.

Dried persimmons? It something Syl has added into my inventory. There are several types of dried fruit, there was also some onigiri, but they are already eaten.

By the way, rice does exist in Aetherdia. It’s called white wheat over here and is mainly used as feed for domestic animals.

If I want to buy some, I will have no chance to buy it from a domestic animal farmhouse?

Ah! It seems something similar to soy sauce and miso also exists!

After all, for a Japanese, it’s rice! Soy Sauce! Miso! Right~ I’m glad this world also have them~♪

Has it been approximately after an hour that we started walking again? Allen and Elena started suddenly running.

“Eh? What!?”

What came into my sight was two children chasing after a huge boar three times the size of them—I saw them charging at a Giant Boar.

“Allen! Elena!”

They run with all their power, but they don’t seem to be able to catch up. They are obviously chasing after a monster.

I can’t shoot the monster with magic because the two are there.

What should I do!? While thinking so—

Allen and Elena vigorously run towards one of the Giant Boars without stopping and give it a flying kick.

The Giant Boar they kicked screams□Buhi□and gets blown off backward.

Once they kick it, they jump up right after landing and give an ax kick to the Wild Boars neck.

The Giant Boar goes doshin and collapses.

“.....”

So strong! What are these five-year-olds!!

These children certainly are level 12, but... Eh, is this normal!? A common sense of children of this world?

That can't be true. Normal children would die.

While I unconsciously stopped running because of the shock and stood in place absentmindedly, Allen and Elena returned to my place as if nothing happened.

“.....”

“..... Haa—— You two... you knew there was a Giant Boar so you started running?”

The two children nod at my deep sigh.

They seem to understand.

“Would you tell me next time you found something before you start running?”

The two children nod again.

Don't they have any sense of danger...? It's a great achievement that these two young children survived like this until now, but if they keep on running away each time a monster appears, I will be in a bind.

I'm taking care of the children, letting them protect me would be foolish.

After confirming the two aren't injured I lightly pat their heads, then I face the defeated Giant Boar.

They probably don't know that monster meat can be eaten. Allen and Elena are ignoring the downed monster.

They don't have a knife to dismantle it, nor they are able to build fire to cook it, so it may not have any significance for these two.

I collect the Giant Boar while the two look at me with “What are you going to do with that?” expressions.

First of all, let's store it inside my “Infinite Storage”. If I can sell this in the town, I will purchase supplies for these two.

After deciding, I beckon the two children and walk towards outside of the forest.

After that.

Following Giant Boar the three of us encountered the Bloody Bear, Red Wolf x2, Great Monkey x2.

Each time, when Allen and Elena noticed a monster, they would pull on my clothes or arms to let me know.

However! Right after letting me know, they would immediately run off and start chasing monsters bigger than me.

Not knowing what to do with them, I checked for injuries then patted their heads. The two children close their eyes and smile in comfort while I pat them.

Are? Doesn't this mean I'm praising them?

That's why the two run off chasing after monsters...?

I thought that my real intentions didn't transmit, but I couldn't stop myself from patting Allen's and Elena's heads.

## **Chapter 5**

The First Camping

The overall dark forest became even darker.

Seems like the sun went down.

That being the case, I decided to stop advancing for today.

"Allen, Elena. I will make a fire so help me gather some wood."

Saying that, I pick up a fallen twig, Allen and Elena imitate me and start gathering.

What should I do for dinner?

Syl has supplied me with some ordinary bread, so... let's make a simple vegetable soup.

Should I also dismantle the monster meat and make some meat skewers?

The two children are bright so if I let them eat the dismantled meat, they will realize that monster meat can be consumed.

I store the gathered twigs in the Infinite Storage and take out one Red Wolf.

This is the fellow I killed with the air bullet. Well, I have no other way at the moment.....

I retrieve a knife, I cut open the Red Wolf's abdomen first to drain the blood in order to start processing.

If I defeated the Red Wolf with a sword, I would pay attention to the value of the fur and start processing from the wounds, but there is no conspicuous wound by killing it with an air bullet, so starting at its abdomen is the theory.

I have the knowledge of dismantling, I even have the skill. Because of that, the dismantling process is mysteriously imprinted in my body.

There's no challenge even though I'm dismantling for the first time. My body moves without hesitation. Even the blood flowing from its cut open abdomen is taken for granted.

The new body itself doesn't feel uncomfortable, but I have realized that the previous Kayano Takumi and the present Kayano Takumi are different.

The dismantling advanced without a delay.

Allen and Elena ji~ were staring at my first dismantling.

It's a gain if they remember the process even if only a little. Still, they are only 5 years old so I really don't expect them to start dismantling anytime soon.

After I finish, I store the fur, materials, and meat into the Infinite Storage and bury the non-useable internal organs in a hole I dug beforehand. The air is filled with the scent of blood so I disperse it with Wind Magic, I washed my body with Washing and decided to move a bit just in case.

Now then, with the preparations complete, let's start making the dinner.

First, I make a simple stove with the stones and light the fire.

I have a Life Magic Ignition which allows me to make a fire, but I used something called Ignition Stone in order to show Allen and Elena how to make a fire with tools.

Well, it's that. It's similar to a match.

█████

Ignition Stone

A stone that bursts into a fire when directly injected with magic power.

Because only fragments of the stone are used, it's mostly disposable.

Because they won't be activated unless directly injected with magic power, storing them away in Infinite Storage is possible.

█████

Once the fire is lit, I pour water into a small pot and put it on the stove. Before the water starts boiling, I cut the Red Wolf meat into easy to eat pieces, pierce it on skewers and lightly salt it. I stab it around the stove and let it grill.

Once the water in the pot is boiling, I add vegetables and adjust the taste with a stock cube and salt.

The stock soup is a Japan-like product. It's a chicken consomme cube of a certain manufacturer[Ajinomoto]. There was no packing so I can't tell certainly, though.

The meat also looks ready when the soup is completed.

When I handed the grilled Red Wolf meat to Allen and Elena, they both sunk their teeth in without any hesitation. However, the grilled meat was piping hot so they separated their mouths from it in panic.

I take my share of meat skewers and fuufuu show them how to cool it down.

Oh! Red Wolf meat is surprisingly tasty.

Seeing my way of eating, the two children fuufuu imitate me and blow on their skewers and eat.

This seems to be their first time eating with tableware, so I carefully teach them how to hold a spoon. The children start eating the soup while tightly grasping their spoons.

We have met just half a day ago, but the two twins are surprisingly attached to me.

They started eating straight away without cautiously sniffing it like before. They are now eating without hesitation.

“Is it tasty?”

The two nod at my question.

Un, they are all smiles.

Since there is nothing to do after the meal, I intend to sleep even though it just became dark. It would be better to get up earlier in the morning.

Thinking so, I retrieve a Barrier Stones.

█████

Barrier Stone

A magic tool that can raise a barrier.

The barrier is set up by stabbing the stake-like stones in the ground in four cardinal directions formation. It prevents monsters from entering the space between the stones.

At least four stones are necessary, the bigger the space between the stones is, the thinner the barrier gets.

█████

Un, it's a convenient tool.

I set up the stones 3~4m in all directions. With this, I can sleep in peace without having to worry about being attacked by monsters.

Lying on the ground would be indeed painful so I wrap myself in a blanket and sit against a tree.

Is this the most comfortable? What about the children?

After sitting down, I look at Allen and Elena, but they are standing still, not knowing what to do.

"Allen, Elena. Come."

The two immediately came to me after calling them.

Then, I sat them to my sides, extended my hands around them, and wrapped them with my blanket.

The two got surprised and couldn't settle down, but they soon clung to me.

The children's bodies are warm like a hot-water bottle, warm and comfortable. It's not surprising, but I got exhausted by the new environment. The sleepiness attacks me immediately and I fall asleep at once.

## **Chapter 6**

The First Town

We were able to safely pass through the Gaya Forest!

We have encountered many monsters, but I honestly pleaded to Allen and Elena to let me defeat them, and I brought them down with magic.

I'm glad the children are so understanding! Thanks to that, my level has raised to 11!

Even so, the forest is bigger than I thought. It took three full days to get out of the forest. Although I'm saying that, our pace was slow and we picked up fruits and herbs on the way.

We got out of the forest's eastern side on the fourth day. I don't know how long it would take to get out of the depths of the forest, but it was quite the distance to get out from the edge of the forest. It takes probably more than a month.

Ah! By the way, unlike Earth where the week has 7 days, Aetherdia's week is 6 days long.

In order—

Day of the Light, Day of the Fire, Day of the Water, Day of the Wind, Day of the Earth, Day of the Darkness

—They are called like that.

24 hours make a day, 6 days make a week, and 5 weeks makes a month.

30 days is a month and 12 months is a year. Therefore, one year consists of 360 days.

The months are called without a change, First Month, Second Month, Third Month.....

- First~Third months are Spring
- Fourth~Sixth months are Summer
- Seventh~Ninth months are Fall
- Tenth~Twelfth months are Winter

They are not much different from Japan's seasons. East of the continent is warmer, west is colder.

The eastern territories are the hottest in Summer, west territories are the coldest in the Winter.

By the way, it is the Third Month now. Guardia's weather is very nice.

An empty grassland spreads before us after leaving the forest. There was something that could be considered a road so we walked for around 4 hours along it before seeing a town.

When we arrive at the gates of the town Shirin, soldiers... no, they are knights. Three knights are on the watch.

The town of Shirin is endorsed as a Rank A impregnable town at the edge of Gaya Forest.

N? That's right. We are in a very dangerous place.

The superior monsters are near the heart of the forest, so the monsters we have encountered were all relatively weak.

But, it's not known when a strong monster will come out of the forest. There's a branch of the Knights precisely because the town of Shirin is in such a place.

These knights are guarding the west gate we came to. One of the knights is waiting for us.

"You! Did you come from the Gaya Forest?"

"Yes. That's right."

The knight makes a surprised expression at my obedient answer.

Well~ it's a dangerous place. I myself don't look any strong and even if I was, it's not a place one would normally take children with him.

"There were medicinal herbs I needed. We didn't go too deep and these children are strong enough to defend themselves."

As expected, I can't say that I was transferred to the forest by a god and it's better to answer honestly instead of making poor excuses.

Actually, we didn't go to the heart of the forest and we gathered herbs. It's also the truth that the children are strong.

"Did you get the herbs you needed?"

"Yes. Fortunately, I was able to obtain them in a nearby place."

"I see. Don't be too reckless. Then, you are entering the town, right?"

"Thank you very much for your advice. Of course, I would like to enter the town, but this is a gate one can enter and exit freely, right?"

The gates are normally open during the daytime, but this gate is closed for some reason.

But, I check just in case.

"This is a gate that only a few people come in and out, after all."

Ah, I see. It's such a thing.

The knight answers after looking at the gate and realizing that we are locked out.

This place is directly facing the Gaya Forest so only authorized knights and high ranked adventurers are utilizing it. Ordinary people rarely approach the gate so there's no reason to keep the gate open when there's no traffic.

"Hand me the identification papers."

"I'm sorry. We come from a rural village so we don't have identification papers yet."

"Come this way if that's the case. We have to do the inspection and other procedures."

"Yes. Sorry for the inconvenience, but I will be troubling you."

"Don't worry about it, that's our job!"

"First, please put your hand on this crystal."

We were taken to a small office-like room and a crystal was presented in front of me.

I put my hand on it as I was told to. When I do so, the crystal emits a faint white light.

This is a tool that determines whether one is a criminal or not when touched. It will start shining red if one is a criminal.

When one commits a crime, he will receive a corresponding title, the crystal seems to be reacting to that.

Also, when people want to start living in the town or when a baby is born, a resident card would be issued and magic power will be registered at the same time. When the crystal finds out a person who committed a crime, the data would spread through the other crystals distributed worldwide, making it easy for other locations to understand that a criminal is trying to enter the town. Meaning, it's a waste of time trying to flee the country.

"Yeah. There are no problems. Please, let me inspect the children next."

Allen and Elena took turns putting their hands at the crystal. There were no problems so I had to pay the 200G (Minors are half the price) toll next.

I pretended that I'm taking money from the pocket while I retrieved 400G from the Infinite Storage.

This is from the knowledge that was inserted into my body, but it seems that there are not many people who have a Space Magic. Therefore, I decided to not use it in public.

The plan is to buy a small bag and use it as if it was a Magic Bag.

Right, right, the money on Aetherdia is called G(old)—

- Copper Coin = 1G
- Large Copper Coin = 10G
- Silver Coin = 100G
- Large Silver Coin = 1,000G
- Gold Coin = 10,000G
- Large Gold Coin = 100,000G
- Platinum Coin = 1,000,000G

—The money is using a decimal system.

One Copper Coin has a value of around 10 yen. Therefore, the toll costs around 2,000 yen.

By the way, the amount of money I have presently at hand is approximately 1,000,000G. That makes about 10,000,000 yen.

Syl, so generous!

Also, what is strange that the money is listed as "G" in the item list, but I'm able to retrieve any coin.

Is exchanging Copper for Silver hard?. Is what I thought at first. But, I can take out the whole amount in copper coins and I can take it out even in gold coins. How convenient...

"This will be your temporary identification papers. It's necessary during your stay in town so don't lose it. Also, if you plan to stay in the town for long, official identification papers would be needed to make."

"Yes. The plan is to register at the Adventurer guild."

"I see. Then, as soon as your registration is completed, return the temporary identification papers here."

"I understand."

I ask the kind Knights about a recommended inn and enter the town.

We advance on the street to the inn the knights recommended to me.

The number of people walking down the street is quite high, is it because the town is near the borders?

It seems that Allen and Elena see this many people for the first time as they are clinging around my waist as if glued to it.

This timid action is very cute, but it's hard to walk.

This is it, Komadori Pavilion. The recommended inn.

It's an excellent establishment with good security and affordable prices, that's what the knights told me.

When I open the door, Obasan in her 40 greets us.

"I'd like to stay, do you have a vacant room?"

"We have a room. One night for one is 400G, 500G with dinner and breakfast. Hot bath requires a separate fee."

When I ask, Obasan politely replies.

"These children are with me, is it all right? They are obedient children, I don't think they will be an annoyance"

Small children may cry in the middle of a night, which may cause trouble later so I'm asking beforehand.

"Yes. It's all right. They are small so they will be fine sleeping in one bed"

It seems okay. The knights might have recommended this inn with that in mind.

Moreover, it seems there's a discount for children.

"Allen, Elena. Are you okay sleeping in one bed?"

When I ask the two who are clinging to me, they start clinging to me even more for some reason.

Uun? Does this mean no?

"Arara. It seems both of them really love Oniisan~ In that case, we have a room with a large bed, would you like to take that room?"

So not a twin, but a double room?

From the looks of it, it's unlikely that they will sleep in a separate bed.

"Let's do that. That room with the meal, please."

Because it's needed to pay in advance, I have paid for a week for now. It's a recommended inn by the knights, it's surely all right.

And then, since there's still time until the dinner, I have asked for a location of a certain place and left the inn.

## **Chapter 7**

Shrine

The destination is a Shrine. It's roughly in the center of the town.

It's a white, stone building. Although old, the white color is preserved and the ivy crawling over the walls leaves a deep impression.

A big belfry is attached to the roof, just right now, dong, dong..... six chimes reverberate around the whole town.

The bell resounds every day at fixed times. It works as a clock for those who don't possess a high price magic tool. It basically substitutes a watch.

It chimes once at 6 in the morning. Then, the chime increases once every two hours, the Shrine's bell chimes until 10 in the evening where it chimes nine times.

Get up with a chime and sleep with nine. The people live around this bell.

Anyone can freely enter and exit the Shrine Chapel.

The inside is spacious enough to accommodate a good number of people, a passage spreads straight to the altar in the back of the chapel from the entrance.

Oblong stools that can fit several adults each are lined along both sides of the passage, facing the altar.

A light shines from the high ceiling, illuminating the chapel.

Serenity. 5 stone statues are in the interior of the altar wrapped in such an atmosphere.

A statue of a woman in the middle. This must be the God of Creation Marianora. On both sides of Marianora-sama are four statues of men. On her right-hand side, there is the Fire God Salamanteel-sama and the Earth God Nomoodle-sama. On her left-hand side, the Water God Windell-sama and Wind God Sylphreel-sama——It's Syl.

"Will you wait here for a while?"

I sit Allen and Elena on one of the stools, stand in front of the statue of Syl and look at it.

Ah, it's Syl.

The stone statue has exactly the same appearances I remember.

People normally glorify and exaggerate the appearances of a god, but it seems that the actual appearances of gods have been properly transmitted to the people of Aetherdia.

(Syl~ Can you hear me?)

I close my eyes and call Syl at once.

(Takumi-san, I can hear you)

Syl immediately answers back.

It seems my voice reached him properly.

(Did you get used to the life over there?)

(I have arrived at the town just today. So I don't think I can say I got already used to it. But, I didn't have a hard time thanks to the magic and the convenient tools)

(That is good)

Syl was really concerned about me, it felt like that.

Having people that are concerned about you is nice. It feels somewhat warming.

—However! This and that are different things!

(Right, Syl)

(What is it?)

(You didn't tell me. Isn't there something that you have to say to me?)

I can imagine Syl's body piki~in stiffen.

(W, what are you saying, I, I don't know~)

..... No, you are definitely shaking.

If you are going to pretend ignorance, I'm going to put on a little better performance.

(Hoho~u... I see... You don't know? Then, it can't be helped. They finally seem to have taken a liking to me, but if Syl doesn't know then I will have to put the poor children into an orphanage—)

(Wa, waa~!! Wait~!!

He gave up at once... I thought you were going to feign ignorance for a bit more, though~.....

(I'm so~rry)

Ah, I don't see him, but he's definitely... prostrating.....

(I thought it was strange. The starting location being A rank Gaya Forest, after all. No matter how you look at it, you would normally start at such an impossible place! But, I was able to leave the forest before encountering a strong monster. Besides, it's strange for children to be in such a place! Moreover, they are "Human?" you know? At first I thought, there's a race like that in this world~ but, when I arrived at the town and appraised the people there, everyone was a normal human, demihuman, and suchmon. I was fully suspecting you, Syl. So, what's going on?)

(Uu~)

(Don't cry and start explaining. It's not like I will get angry or anything)

Syl bursts into tears while prostrating.

Nono, you are a god, right? First... no, first is Marianora-sama so you are the second most important person, right? Why are you so brittle?

(Go on)

(It can't be said from my mouth.....)

(.....)

When I urge the sobbing Syl to explain, he lets out some unexpected words.

What? "Can't say"..... moreover, Syl said, "from my"...

N~...

Is he forbidden to speak?

From whom?

No... if that's the case, wouldn't that be strange?

If he imprudently spills it out, would he get in trouble...?

An existence that can forbid Syl, a god from speaking, I can think only of those four.

(Say, Syl. Wind God, Fire God, Water God, Earth God, do you share nonaggression, territory or such things...between each other?)

(..... We do)

I see. They do.....

That means, there's another god who is related to Allen and Elena?

I don't think it's Marianora-sama. Then, it's someone between Fire, Water, and Earth...

(It's just, those children are no ordinary children, leaving them would be dangerous..... I can tell you only that)

(I understand. I won't ask anymore. Just... am I all right?)

(Takumi-san has become a part of my family, but it doesn't change the fact that you will be living on Aetherdia like a normal human so... There's just no control restriction, so there's no limit to what you can do)

(Is there no problem with you assisting me?)

(Yes. It doesn't change that Takumi-san is my family and since you have received a blessing from Marianora-sama it's only natural to offer assistance)

(So, in the end, we are using a loophole.....)

Allen and Elena are related to a god. Moreover, not just followers, something more important.

It's just my conjecture since I can't get more details, though.

..... At any rate——

(..... Was my existence a godsend?)

(... You are angry..... right?)

(Speaking honestly, if only you told me right away instead of stealthily scheming..... is what I'm thinking)

(I'm really sorry.....)

(It's okay already. It's okay to rely on you when I encounter trouble, right?)

(Yes! I don't mind no matter how trivial it is. Please, contact me anytime!)

(I understand. I will be relying on you at that time. Laters)

The conversation with Syl was forcibly ended in the middle.

Syl himself is hopeless, I can understand his reasoning, but I was used, after all, I couldn't erase my negative emotions.

However, I'm definitely not angry nor disappointed.

My new heart just probably didn't settle properly yet. I think there won't be any problems if I give it a while. Once it's settled, I will contact Syl again and make many demands. That will make the offset.

"Allen, Elena. Come here."

Once my heart settled, I turn around and call the twins over.

When I call them, the two immediately trot over to me, I crouch and hold them in my arms.

"Thank you for waiting. Shall we return to the inn?"

I walk back to the inn with two smiling children in my arms and setting sun in the back.

## **Chapter 8**

Adventurer's Guild

Good morning. Sleeping in the bed is indeed nice.

I have children on both of my sides so I can't really move, though.

Apart from that, listen to this! I didn't notice because I didn't have a mirror until now, but my eyes are green! When I saw my reflection in one of the windows, I was really startled. It's the same jade green as Syl's.

Because nothing was said regarding my appearances and I didn't request anything, so the appearances were done without my consent. Black hair was a necessity...

Well, there are no problems if my eye color is different.

Now then, after we slowly finished breakfast, we headed to the Adventurer's Guild.

It's a building with a sign of a pentagon shield with two crossed swords.

When we enter inside, a spacious hall comes to sight. Because I came here today only to register, we set off with the third chime, but there are adventurers still loitering around here and there. Because these people are wearing armor and carrying weapons, there's no doubt that they are adventurers.

They are mostly concentrated around the bulletin board on the left side of the hall. That's most likely the place where requests are put.

Well~ but, there's an available receptionist at the counter so I wasn't wrong to come at this time.

Without further ado, I take Allen and Elena and approach the receptionist.

"Good morning. What may I help you with?"

The female guild receptionist greets us with a sweet business smile.

"Adventurer registration, please. Ah, these children too. There's no age restriction, is there?"

When I convey my business, the receptionist looks at Allen and Elena. A surprised look appears on her face, but she immediately returns to her original expression.

Small children like these rarely come here, right?

The age of majority in this world is 15, but it's not unusual to start working earlier. Although I say that, it's just helping parents with work or routine tasks for the town. The Guild also has requests related to routine tasks for the town. However, most of the children who work like that are over 10 years old...

"Yes. There's no age restriction so registration is possible. Please fill the necessary information on this form. Do you require amanuensis[An amanuensis is a person employed to write or type what another dictates or to copy what has been written by another, and also refers to a person who signs a document on behalf of another under the latter's authority] ?."

"No, it's all right. Thank you very much."

I give my thanks, receive the form and pen and check the contents. The necessary items to fill are the name, age, and special skill (Primary way of fighting). It's only these three items.

I have never seen the characters the form is written in before, but I properly understand them. There are no problems with writing.

After checking the form over, I fill out three papers.

For the special skills item, it's magic (Wind) for me, and hand to hand combat for Allen and Elena.

I handed the forms to the receptionist after filling them out.

"Yes, thank you very much. Please wait a moment until the card is completed."

When the receptionist miss received the forms, she checked whether there are some problems and then she started operating a crystal.

After several minutes, she lines up three credit card-like metal cards on the counter.

"Please check whether the name is correct then drip a drop of blood on the card. This will complete the registration. After the registration is completed, please check for abnormalities."

The Guild Card is a magic tool. The ownership of the card is determined by the blood and no one aside from the owner won't be able to use it.

First, I drip blood on my card and register it.

□□□□

## **Status**

□Name: Takumi Kayano

□Race: Human

□Age: 20

□Personal Rank: F

□Party Rank: —

Level: 11

Request Record: —

Dungeon Record: —

Money: 0g

## **Skills**

- Light Magic
- Dark Magic
- Wind Magic
- Life Magic
- Swordsmanship
- Throwing

- Appraisal
- Dismantling
- Gathering
- Cooking
- Sewing
- Washing
- Cleaning
- Crafting
- Arithmetics
- Reading
- Abnormal Status Resistance
- Mental Status Resistance
- Physical Attack Resistance
- Magic Attack Resistance

## **Titles**

- Transmigrated From a Different World
- Blessed by the God of Creation, Marianora
- Friend of Wind God Sylphreel

□□□□□

A good amount of information is written on the card.

Ah, I'm glad. It says I'm an ordinary Human.

There are 5 “□” main entries that are obligatory to display, however, it, fortunately, doesn't display the family. I feel relieved because the other information is optional and can be hidden. With this, only those with permission will be able to see my details.

There's a possibility that Guild staff would need to read it, but it should be all right if I just conceal the necessary details.

After that, Allen and Elena drip their blood on the cards and I don't forget to alter their settings.

“There's a fee for a reissue, so please be careful of losing it. Would you like to hear the explanation about the guild?”

There's no fee to register as an adventurer, but it seems it costs 2,000G (2 Large Silver Coins) for reissue of the card, if lost.

I have the knowledge about the rules of the guild, but because it would be troublesome if there is some discrepancy, I request for the explanation.□Well then□ Miss receptionist bowed and began the explanation.

First, the explanation about the ranks.

The ranks begin at F, and raising to E, D, C, B, A and S.

Rule of a thumb of the ranks——

- F Rank – Newcomer
- E Rank – Fledgling
- D Rank – Full-fledged
- C Rank – Skilled
- B Rank – Superior
- A Rank – Superior+α
- S Rank – Hero

—Those are the standards.

In addition, there's something called a party where several people handle a single request. In that case, the Party Rank becomes the average rank of the party members.

The Requests which are located on the Request Board (Request Subject, Reward, Time Limit are written on them) you bring them from the board to the reception and once accepted, you can begin the request.

There's a recommended rank written on the Request and you are able to receive requests one rank above yours. The reward is received after completion, there is no penalty fee for failure.

The number of successful and failed requests is considered during a rank up. It's harder to rank up with too many failures and there even exists a penalty for consecutive failures.

Also, if you don't receive requests in three years, the registration will be revoked, and the registration will be disposed of if you commit vicious acts.

With the exception of materials collected for the requests, it's possible to sell monster materials, ingredients, etc. at the Guild's counter. There are fixed prices which profit the adventurers.

Of course, adventurers are free to sell their materials to individual shops, but if problems arise, the Adventurer's Guild won't get involved.

In addition, the Guild functions as a bank and the money deposited at the Guild can be withdrawn at any Guild branch in any country.

And last, the Guild does not involve in quarrels between fellow adventurers, injuries and in the worst case death are all self-responsibility. This concludes the explanation.

"This is all. Do you have any questions?"

"Yes, the party registration, please."

"I understand. Your guild cards, please."

I register me, Allen and Elena as a party at once.

The party's name is White Wings. I imagined angels since the children are god's relatives.

I have money that I received from Syl, but it's a finite amount, so I have to work for a steady income.

The identification papers were the purpose, but in a different world, it has to be Adventurer, right!

Therefore, I simply registered as an adventurer.

But, the problem is Allen and Elena.

It would be best if Allen and Ellen could do house-sitting when I'm on a request, but I think those two would definitely follow me.

Well, the children are strong, they won't become a burden. If that's the case, it would be best to prepare everything right from the start.

It would be better than having them sneaking away during the house-sitting. Besides, I want those two to see various things and places!

"The registration is complete."

"Thank you very much."

"Will you receive a request today?"

"No..... ah! If I have medicinal herbs or monster materials at hand, will there be any problem using them for a request?"

"No, if the condition of the material is good, there are no problems. Do you have anything with you?"

"No, just making sure. Would it be alright to trouble you again if I have more questions later?"

"Yes. I'm responsible for the reception, my name is Luna. I look forward to working with you."

"Thank you very much. You probably already know, but I'm Takumi. Please treat me well"

I recalled the materials from the Gaya Forest, but as expected, a newcomer who just registered bringing out such things would bring too much attention so I gave up.

Then, after giving my thanks to the polite receptionist miss——Luna-san, I take Allen and Elena and leave the guild.

After that, I went to return the temporary identification papers to the west gate and wandered around the town aimlessly afterwards.

## **Chapter 9**

The First Job

When I wake up in the morning, Allen and Elena were already up. They are clinging on both of my sides staring at my face fixedly.

This has become a habit since our first camping in the forest.

“..... Morning.”

““.....Mor... ning...””

“!!”

They greeted me!! Allen and Elena spoke!

What adorable voices!

I who was greatly impressed hugged the two children reflexively.

◇ ◇ ◇

After having my fill of embracing the two, I finished preparations and we went to the guild.

It's full of people, unlike yesterday. I go towards the low-rank Request Board while Allen and Elena are tightly sticking to me in order to not get separated.

A low-rank male and female adventurers around my age are gazing at the board.

A great number of Requests are closely packed together on the board.

There are three main types of Requests.

Gathering Request——A gathering job of a specific medicinal plant or monster material.

Subjugation Request——A job to defeat a designated monster. After defeating it, a part of its body is necessary as a subjugation proof.

Escort Request——A job to escort a person/item from a town to a town or protect them in a specific location.

There are little to nothing Escort Requests for low-rankers. So I will be choosing between gathering and subjugation.

N~ what should I pick..... Would taking a gathering medicinal plants request at first be better? With that, Allen and Elena can go with me...

Thinking that, I pick one of the Requests and stand in the queue at the counter.

“Next person.”

“Thank you.”

My turn finally came.

The receptionist behind the counter is the same that took care of us yesterday, Luna-san.

"Ara, Takumi-san. Good morning. A Request?"

"Good morning. This is the Request, please."

"Excuse me..... A gathering of Lilie Grass, I see. Your Guild Card, please."

I hand the Request I picked to Luna-san after light greetings.

Luna-san confirmed the contents of the Request, received my Guild Card and quickly operated the crystal.

"10 Lilie Grasses is considered a batch so please be careful. The time limit is until three days later."

Luna-san explains the important points of the Request.

"Thank you very much."

While saying my thanks, I received back my Guild Card and we leave the Guild.

We go towards the south gate at once.

There is a small forest in the south of Shirin. There are no monsters aside from E, F Rank slimes, and wolves. It's a relatively safe area so it's just the right place for newcomers and unskilled adventurers.

"Allen, Elena. This is the Lilie Grass."

After getting to the forest, I immediately find the Lilie Grass and show it to children. It has a dark green stalk with several jagged maple-like leaves.

The Lilie roots aren't necessary so I cut the stalk and pick it up without the roots.

"If you find it, gather it like this. Understood?"

After Allen and Elena nod, they start searching the area for Lilie Grass at once.

They found it immediately. They timidly hold it in their tiny hands and trot over to me.

They uneasily look at me while holding out the Lilie Grass to me.

"It's all right, this is the one. You did great~"

I pat the two children's heads and receive the Lilie Grass while praising them.

Happy for being praised, kya, kya they make a merry and run off looking for another Lilie Grass.

I'm glad. It seems that their emotions and voices are returning little by little.

I feel relieved that they are growing in the right direction.

Now then, I should also start looking around~

I found the plant right after I began the search.

Oh, Cren Grass and Maryoku Grass are also there. There was a request for that too if I'm not mistaken. Let's gather that too. Even if the Request won't be there anymore, I can just store it in the Infinite Storage for the time being.

Thinking that, I gather one plant after another.

Along the way, Allen and Elena learned the characteristics of the various plants I was picking and also started looking for them.

Our gathering in the forest continues until the noon and the prepared jute bag was full of gathered medicinal plants.

We gathered a sufficient amount.

"Allen, Elena. Let's stop for today."

When I call the two, they trot over to me with hands full of medicinal plants.

"You both gathered so much~ Amazing~"

When I praise them after receiving the plants, the two children make joyful expressions.

So cute~ The two laughed a lot today.

"All right, let's return to town after eating a meal."

We left the forest, sat in the middle of a meadow with great scenery, and returned to the town after eating the food I bought at the stall in the town.

◇ ◇ ◇

When we return to the Guild, I go straight to the Request Board and look for Requests with other medicinal plants.

Umm... Cren Grass, Maryoku Grass, oh, Fenze Grass is also there.

I pick the Requests after comparing the gathered plants with the Requests. I have many plants that are insufficient numbers so I decide to store them in Infinite Storage and go to the counter.

"Welcome back."

The one who greeted me at the counter was Luna-san again.

"We have returned. These Requests in addition to the Request we have received this morning."

"I will confirm. Put the materials in this basket please."

After exchanging greetings, I put the Guild Card together with the new Requests on the counter. Luna-san received them and took out a basket.

I place the medicinal plants into that basket. Because all kinds of medicinal plants were in the 10 Requests I picked, I line them up while counting.

“... Y, you have quite a lot. It’s quite difficult to gather this much in half a day...”

“It’s because the children did their best.”

The medicinal plants turned into a heap because the basket is unexpectedly small.

Luna-san was slightly surprised at the number of medicinal plants I took out, but she promptly started checking the medicinal plants.

“This is this time’s reward.”

Once the confirmation of the medicinal plants is done, the reward money is presented. I confirm the amount of money at the counter and put them into a bag.

And when I think of returning——

“Why are brats in here!”

A large, bald adventurer comes over while shouting.

## **Chapter 10**

Template?

“Why are brats in here!..”

A loud voice echoes around the Guild.

That voice gathers the attention of the other people around.

“They are my company, is there a problem?”

“This is not a place for brats to play!”

“No... they are obediently behaving, right? I don’t think they are being a nuisance to you, but?”

“They are a nuisance just by being here!”

“Just by being here, you say..... give me a break...”

This is the type of person who would pick up a fight no matter what I say. I’m certain my words won’t connect with him.

I would like to settle this peacefully, but..... now then, how to deal with this.....

I wanted to sigh, but I forcibly suppressed it. The opponent seems to be the type that would get even more agitated by it.

Nevertheless, to think that there would actually be a person who would pick a quarrel for no reason..... I thought this would happen only in novels.

“Oi! Don’t ignore me!”

“No, I told you...”

“Aan!? Are you defying me right now?”

The opponent suddenly extends his hands and grabs me by the collar without a thought.

Ah, it’s no use no matter what I say. Talking is impossible.

Now then..... what to do.....

While thinking so, the hand that was grabbing me was suddenly repelled.

“Ah...”

When I let the voice, it was already too late.

Allen and Elena kicked the bald adventurer’s hand away. Then, they proceed to kick him in the abdomen just like that.

The adventurer let’s out Gu! a suffering groan while his upper body bent. He then fell back right on his backside.

“Uwa! Stop, stop! Allen, Elena. Wait!”

I shout in panic.

I stop Allen and Elena a second before they can both land ax kick on the collapsed adventurer’s head.

The kicks that were going to land directly on his head just barely swept beside him.

That was dangerous... seriously dangerous...

He would definitely die if those ax kicks landed.

His upper body fell down with a thud and he stopped moving. He must have already fainted after suffering the hit to his abdomen.

A silence drifts in the Guild which was noisy just a minute ago.

The adventurers and the Guild staff stiffened in shock.

Even if they are used to fighting, witnessing small children KO’ing a grown man must have been really surprising.

Well then..... what do I do now?

“Ou. Excuse me..... N? What?”

A person walks into the guild and looks around the stiffened adventurers and guild staff dumbfoundedly.

“What, what? Did something happen?”

A familiar voice. If I'm not mistaken, it should be one of the west gate Knights.

He is not wearing armor today, but a dark blue knight uniform.

Thanks to him, the stopped time in the Guild started moving again.

First of all, I turn to the Guild staff behind the counter and timidly ask.

"Ah~..... Is there punishment in a case like this?"

I can't leave without asking that, right?

◇ ◇ ◇

There was no punishment.

This time, we were not at fault because the other party one-sidedly picked a quarrel with us and we only defended ourselves.

I'm glad...

The fallen adventurer was dragged to the guild's sickbay by other adventures on the guild staff instructions, he started moving again normally after a while.

"This~ Takumi-san..."

"Yes?"

"See..... the children....."

"Huh?"

Luna-san reservedly calls out to me. Prompted by those words, I turn around to look at Allen and Ellen..... they were crying.

They were shedding tears without a voice.

"Waa!? Why are you crying!?"

I rush up to the two children in panic and crouch to match their line of sight.

"Injuries... none, right? What's wrong?"

"..... Don't... leave us....."

They cling to me with a fragile voice.

Leave? Why?

Perhaps, is it because I raised my voice a little while ago? Are those two uneasy because of that?

They thought I was angry at them...

"There's no way I would leave you? It's all right, okay"

I embrace the crying children while repeating “It’s all right”, “We are together” in a gentle voice.

It took about ten minutes for those two to calm down.

“Here, you must be thirsty, right?”

Still sobbing a little, I hand the two a fruit juice.

They cried a lot, I must let them rehydrate properly.

“In the end, what has happened?”

Ah, Knight-sama, you are still here...

The Knight-sama from the west gate is the second commanding officer of Shirin Knight's, a noble named Grunwald Ruven.

A captain of one of five Shirin's divisions. The second most important person in the Shirin Knights. It seems he came today to talk to the Guild Master.

□□□□

Status

Name: Grunwald Ruven

Race: Human

Occupation: Knight

Age: 26

Level: 32

## Skills

- Swordsmanship
- Spearmanship
- Throwing
- Fire Magic
- Horseback Riding
- Dismantling
- Commanding
- Etiquette
- Dancing
- Physical Attack Resistance

## Titles

- Count Ruven's Second Son
- Knight of the Flaming Sword

□□□□

Un, he has the skills appropriate of a noble knight-sama.

Indeed, a knight should be about riding a horse and swinging weapons around. Besides, "Commanding". Un, I feel like it's necessary for a captain.

"Etiquette" and "Dancing" is noble-ish.

The title "Knight of the Flaming Sword" sounds cool~ Looking at the name, is it about using a sword enhanced with Fire Magic?

..... Oops, he asked a question.

"They probably thought I would abandon them."

"Haa? What's that about? You, would you do such a thing?"

"I won't do anything like that! Please don't do something so disgraceful."

"Then, why are they thinking so?"

"No~ I didn't perfectly grasp the understanding yet, I still don't understand well~"

That's the truth. I don't know their circumstances before meeting me at that place.

"They are your children..... probably not, they are your sibling, aren't they?"

"Unfortunately, they are not. I have just met these children recently. To be precise, a week ago? They were in the Gaya Forest."

"Haah?"

"If they were discarded or just lost, I do not know, though."

"Seriously?"

"Yeah. Wasn't there recently a carriage attacked near the Gaya Forest or something? They were most likely slaves."

Weren't they sold as slaves because they don't have parents? Is what I think. After all, if they were in the orphanage, I wouldn't meet them in a place like that.

"..... There certainly was. A Slave Trader from the Argo was attacked by monsters in the Gaya Forest while heading to this town."

Luna-san immediately recalls the information.

"Ah, as expected. They were probably made into a decoy."

"Children like these..."

"It doesn't look like they were the ones to become the decoy in the end, though. In this case, how are these children going to be treated? There won't be problems if I take them in, right? Fortunately, they don't have any proof of being slaves."

"In that case, they are simply treated as orphans. There won't be problems whether you put them into an orphanage or raise them yourself. Besides, it looks like these

children completely recognize you as their guardian. If you'd like, I will guarantee for you."

"Ruven-sama, thank you very much."

I was worried about the interference from the merchant, but it doesn't seem like there will be problems.

It seems like Ruven-sama will become the guarantee.

"Wald is all right. Apart from that——"

"Rather than that, Takumi-san! You went into the Gaya Forest?"

Luna-san interrupts Ruven-sama who said it's okay to call him Wald-sama, and she bends forward over the counter.

## **Chapter 11**

Takumi's Strength

"Rather than that, Takumi-san! You went into the Gaya Forest?"

"Eh?"

"What's going on!!"

"... Yes. There were medicinal plants I needed."

What an amazingly angry look.....

Gaya Forest..... was there such settings?

"Is the reason you asked about the materials at hand when you came first to the Guild possibly..."

Ah, she noticed. Luna-san, you remember it...

"Do you have them?"

"....."

What to do?

Luna-san is staring at me with great vigor. No..... no those are eyes looking at a prey.....

"You have them, right? ..... Right?"

"..... Yes."

Chills ran through my back for some reason.

In the end, I was completely defeated by Luna-san's insight.

Therefore, I decided to sell the materials I obtained in Gaya Forest.

As expected, because a number of days passed since then, I keep silent about the materials in the Infinite Storage and decided to sell only the one processed Red Wolf's magic stone, fur, claws, fangs, and medicinal plants and fruits.

There wasn't much, but Guild staff including Luna-san were overjoyed.

There are many calm zones in the outskirts of Shirin except Gaya Forest. The security is tight, the flow of people is high because the town is near the borders, but there doesn't seem to be many veteran adventurers.

There are only a few adventurers who recently went to Gaya Forest so the stock of advanced materials significantly decreased, Luna-san earnestly explained.

"Which reminds me, Wald-sama. Didn't you come to talk with Guild Master?"

"Yeah, regarding an expedition. We periodically go to the Gaya Forest to thin out the monsters. If left alone, the monsters would start pouring out which would be really troubling."

"Is it a joint expedition of knights and high ranked adventures?"

"Yeah. The number of people I can take is limited because I can't take everyone along. If I don't go into the depths, I won't have enough people."

"It's an A-Rank forest, after all~"

"Because of that, Takumi. You are participating."

Haa? What are you talking about?

"Nono, I'm an F-Rank, you know!?"

"If you are able to go alone and defeat a Red Wolf there are no problems, right?"

"....."

Crap, I made a mistake. I shouldn't take out the Red Wolf materials!

"Oh, it looks that Guild Master is free now. I will make an official request later, don't run away."

"Wa, wait!"

Saying just that, Wald-sama walks into the Guild Master's office.

"..... I can reject a designated request, right?"

I ask Luna-san after a while of silence.

“It’s not impossible. But, when it comes to an official request from the Knights, it becomes a request of the country so.....”

Why did your voice become cloudy in the end!? Please confirm that I can decline!

Why did it become like this? Where did I make a mistake?

Where? I did take out the Red Wolf materials, right.....

Uwaa, it’s my fault! Aah, geez...

“Anyway, I’m going home for today.....”

“Yes, thank you for your hard work.”

“Allen, Elena. We are leaving~”

I lift the two who are still uneasy and leave towards the inn.

◆◆◆

——Inside the Guild Master’s office.

“Ruven-dono, sorry for the wait.”

The one greeting is a grizzled elderly man. This man is precisely the Guild Master of Guardia’s Shirin Adventurer’s Guild branch.

“No problem. It’s I who should apologize for coming during busy times.”

Grunwald sits on a sofa, facing the Guild Master. A female staff member puts a cup of tea in front of them, she then bows and quietly leaves the room.

“Nono. Are you here today regarding the subjugation expedition to Gaya Forest?”

“That’s right. As usual, I will leave the arrangements of adventures to you. The time planned is at the beginning of the Fourth Month for one week.”

“I understand. I will prepare the request immediately.”

“Ah, in addition, please include a nomination for a person named Takumi Kayano this time.”

“Takumi Kayano... is it? I’m not familiar with that name, but...”

The business advanced smoothly as usual. But, Grunwald had one more request that is different from the usual.

Grunwald smiled at the Guild Master with a mysterious grin.

“He’s an F Rank newcomer who has registered to the Guild just recently. It’s only natural that the Guild Master doesn’t know of him.”

“You want to include a new adventurer to the expedition to Gaya Forest?”

“Although a newcomer, he’s no amateur.”

Grunwald recalls the moment Takumi came to the town for the first time and another meeting from today.

He's an ordinary youth at glance. But, he perceived an extraordinary presence from that youth. It was only his intuition as an experienced fighter, though.

"He caught your eyes, is what you are saying?"

"I'm interested a bit. Therefore, three parties as usual plus one, please."

Besides, the children that are with the youth. They are no ordinary children.

Although he didn't see it directly, according to the people who saw, those children destroyed a giant man in an instant.

That was enough for Grunwald to show interest.

Incorporating them into a party made of A Rank and B Rank adventurers...

The subjugation expedition in Gaya Forest that Grunwald always considered troublesome. He can't help it, but to look forward to the due date this time. That is the face Grunwald is making.

◆◆◆

Later, an official request from the Knights arrived.

The designated request with all the details was handed to me by Luna-san.

Nono, please don't look at me with that smile!

I will decline..... eh? To decline, I have to go directly to the Knights? No way... that's impossible..... I understand. I will start preparing...

Eh? Please bring a lot of advanced materials, you say..... Luna-san.....

## **Idle Talk 1**

Warmth

Stomach, empty.

Cold.

Painful.

Before I noticed, little sister, together.

Dark, cold, place.

Morning? and night? Twice.

The muddy food, I ate a bit.

After that, only motionlessly, sitting.

I, how long, remain here?

I want to get out, from here.

Outside, let me out.

◇ ◇ ◇

"You damned brats, get out!"

I can leave?

When I go out, a carriage? I was placed in.

Where, to?

◇ ◇ ◇

Rattlerattle, it drives.

Unknown, place.

Where, being taken to?

"Monsters! What happened to the escort!"

"There are too many! They are coming this way."

"Tsk! Can't be helped. Use the brats and escape. Throw away one!"

Ah, stop.

What are you doing, to little sister.

"Oi, one is enough for the decoy."

No.

Not leaving.

"Stop dilly-dallying. Both are fine, hurry up! We are leaving."

◇ ◇ ◇

Pain.

Something, coming.

Have to escape.

◇ ◇ ◇

Someone, here?

What to do?

Take, a look?

"Are you lost? Did you come here alone?"

Unpleasant, feeling not here.  
A good person, perhaps?  
With magic, made our bodies clean.  
Injuries, healed too.  
Gentle, person, I wonder?  
"Here, eat up."  
To eat, is okay?  
For us?  
..... Delicious.

◇ ◇ ◇  
I am, Allen.  
Little sister, is, Elena.  
Names, we received.  
Happy.  
Good boy, he pats, my head.  
Tightly, he embraces us.

Warm.  
◇ ◇ ◇  
Delicious, meals, gives us a lot.  
Sleeps, together.  
When wakes up, good morning, he says.

Good boy, he praises me.  
A gentle, face.  
Warm, hands.

Oniichan, I love.  
Al~ways.  
For~ever, together, want to stay.

◇ ◇ ◇  
Release, Oniichan!  
"Allen, Elena. Wait!"

Angry?

I, did something, bad?

I am sorry.

“..... Don’t... leave us.....”

No.

Stay together.

Don’t abandon us.

“There’s no way I would leave you? It’s all right, okay?”

Really?

Be, together, is okay?

Stay, with Oniichan, is, okay?

I will be, a good boy.

From now on, always, together!

## **Chapter 12**

To the Dungeon

Few days after Allen and Elena KO’ed the bald adventurer.

At present, we do Requests for two days and take one day off. I’m taking on Requests like this in order to not burden the children’s bodies. We were able to steadily raise our ranks to E.

□□□□

### **Status**

Name: Takumi Kayano

Race: Human? Wind God’s retainer (Temporary)

Occupation: Mage

Age: 20

Level: 13

□□□□

We defeat monsters on the side while doing Gathering Requests, my level slightly rose, my skills and skill proficiencies increased slightly.

I even obtained a “Savior” title.

Did I receive it only by being together with Allen and Elena?

I don't know what the standards are, but obtaining titles is not as surprising as meeting with a god, therefore I decided to leave it be for the time being.

◇ ◇ ◇

"Takumi-san, are you not going to a dungeon?"

We came to the guild right in the morning today.

Luna-san inquiries while I view the Request Board while looking for a good Request.

"Dungeon..... ah!!"

Dungeons are all over Aetherdia. I don't know to what extent the people of this world know about dungeons, but there exist 108 dungeons in total.

Dungeons difficulty is determined by the number and variety of the monsters inside, the floors are divided into a bottom, middle and high levels.

Although people are aware of the dungeon's existence, there are still many undiscovered dungeons. As for how the dungeon's difficulty is determined.....

It's determined by the existence and efficiency of the dungeon's transfer devices.

Beginner Class——No transfer device.

Intermediate Class——Transfer devices are installed every ten floors.

Advanced Class——Transfer device on each floor.

Such easy to understand criteria are in effect.

Because it seems that capturing a single floor of Advanced dungeon takes up to several days, it wouldn't be possible to easily capture the dungeon without transfer devices.

In addition, it's unknown how the dungeons work, but the monster defeated in them don't leave corpses behind. Instead, defeated monsters leave behind a part of materials——they are leaving behind a Drop Item.

You never know what Drop Item will be left behind.

If you defeat Red Wolf, it's materials, claws, fangs or meat... you have no choice but to defeat many to get what you need.

Also, it's possible that a rare item would drop. Some amazing medicine can be obtained.

Well~ it happens only rarely.

There is a 15-floors deep Low dungeon near Shirin.

"I totally forgot their existence. No wonder we rarely bump into other adventurers outside the town."

"Is that so? I was certain you didn't want to go because of the children. You are very helpful because you are taking on Requests on non-dungeon materials, though."

"You mean that most of the adventurers are going to the dungeon?"

"Yes. Most of the adventurers, up to D-Rank go to the nearby dungeon. The adventurers above D-Rank mostly take on Escort Requests. Truthfully, only a few newcomers go to the outskirts of the town."

The monsters near the town aren't a big deal. You must make a few days trip to arrive at a place with strong monsters.

"The dungeon is a half day on foot from here, after all."

Half a day, huh... it's surprisingly close.

Going to the dungeon certainly enables making more money than going to the outskirts.

"Then, should we also go to take a look~"

"Eh!? You are going?"

Luna-san gets surprised at my muttering.

"We can't?"

"Nono, that's not it. It's just the designated Request for Gaya Forest is next week, so I was thinking if it's not too hard timewise....."

"Ah. You could say I intended only to take a look at the bottom floors before challenging, so we should have plenty of time, right? If I deduct a day off before the designated Request and the travel time, we should be diving just for three days."

Because the traveling may increase with Allen and Elena traveling with me, we will be able to dive at least for three days.

It's plenty of time for sightseeing, right?

"I think so. Fufu. When it comes to Takumi-san and the children I was under the selfish impression that you would 'capture' it straight away."

"You are expecting too much from E-Rank adventurers."

"Ara, not at all. It's not just me, it's the evaluation of the entire Guild, you know?"

I have a feeling that the Guild's expectations got heavy since the incident on the day of our first Request.

Even though I was just a human that didn't stand out at all on Earth, I have a feeling that it's the exact opposite on Aetherida.

I stopped being normal the moment I became a god's retainer, though.....

I just can't get used to it.

I left the guild with such complicated thoughts and purchased the necessities (mainly food).

After that, I informed the "Komadori Pavilion" couple that we will be going out for a few days and headed towards the dungeon.

◇ ◇ ◇

There was still some time until sunset when we arrived at the dungeon.

The plan was to arrive in the evening, stay overnight and go to the dungeon the next day.

This happened because Allen and Elena walked better than I expected. Their pace was fast with small steps.

There's no need to hurry that much, I told them, but the two didn't lower their pace. In addition, their stamina is better than that of an ordinary adult so we have arrived earlier.

Now then, what should we do?

The fourth dungeon, "Dungeon of Earth".

A 15-floor underground dungeon with an earth attribute. A dungeon with relatively high capture rate.

The entrance to the dungeon is hollowed in a two-story large rock.

From there, a sloping road spreads out. It's wide enough to fit three adult men. The depths are not fully visible.

Spend a night here as planned or to enter the dungeon nearly.....

"In."

"Go~"

While considering what to do, Allen and Elena exclaim.

"Is it really okay? Are you not tired?"

""Is alr~ight""

Since the two say they are okay, I decided to go inside. I will only watch their condition properly and take a break before they get fatigued.

I illuminate the surroundings with “Light” before descending. I can keep on the “Light” for one hour before having to cast it again. As it can only illuminate the surroundings in 1m radius, I locked hands with Allan and Elena and started walking.

“Looks like a normal tunnel, huh.”

There is a hall further down. A hall that looks like a tunnel in a large mine.

The walls and floor are made from earth, but it seems to be very sturdy as it’s not easily damaged. In addition, it’s wide enough to swing a sword in all directions. The route in the distance seems to be complicated as a maze, though.

The first straight path comes to an end quickly. It splits into two passages.

Allen and Elena restlessly look at the passages.

Speaking of mazes, walking along one side of the wall will bring us to an exit (the previous path in this situation) without problems... what to do?

The Guild is selling the dungeon map, but it’s only accurate up to the fifth floor so I didn’t purchase it.

Ah, which reminds me, wasn’t there a map function in the menu?

I open the window screen at once.

N~ there’s no map while inside a dungeon. There’s auto mapping function instead. It displays only the way we went.

But, with this, we won’t lose our way no matter which road we go and we will be able to easily return back.

If that’s the case... let’s let the children choose the way.

“Allen, Elena. Which way do you want to go?”

“”? ..... That way~””

They point in the same direction at the same time.

Then, let’s go that way first!

## **Chapter 13**

Dungeon of Earth - Capture 1

Proceeding in the directions Allen and Elena have picked, we quickly found stairs leading below.

Looking at the map, this is possibly the shortest way.

In addition, the two children’s opinion which way to take didn’t differ even once. They are demonstrating the twin power to its fullest.

Beshi.

Dokan.

Zuruzuru...

Batain.

Allen's and Elena's exploding kicks.

It gets blown off and crashes into the wall.

It slides to the ground just like that.

It ceased to breathe.

How many times did I see the exact same scene...

Un. There's no enemy! Hahaha.

Because the monsters in the Low-Class dungeon aren't that strong, I let Allen and Elena deal with them as they see fit.

Thereupon, all Slimes, Ground Moles, Ground Spiders (Indeed, this being "Dungeon of Earth" the monsters that appear are mainly that of earth attribute) who appeared ..... were defeated one by one.

For now, I let the kids run wild, but such training in the future, would it still be okay? Being strong is not a bad thing. Especially in this world where the average lifespan is shorter than on Earth.

They are still small, so it's okay, right? In Japan, they would be in pre-schoolers. Pre-schoolers should be playing vigorously, right?

Once they grow up a little more, I will start teaching them, or let them attend school! Everything would be all right then!

We have arrived at the 5th floor without an accident; there is a small room, so I decided to call it a day and camp there.

First, I clean their bodies with Washing. They are not that dirty, but keeping hygiene is good.

Next is the dinner preparation.

I take out a portable stove magic tool. Well~ it's similar to a tabletop electric cooking device. Although it's not running on electricity, but on fire magic stones. I have found this magic tool while walking around the town. This was the only magic tool at a reasonable price. But, even if the price weren't reasonable, I would buy it on the spot because of the convenience.

I put a pot with soup on top of the magic tool and warm it up.

I asked the Komadori Pavilion boss if he could cook something for me and this is it. It's soup with a tomato base, lots of meat and various vegetables.

The sweetness and acidity are refreshing.

Then, I made a potato salad with a fresh bread I bought back in the town. Unfortunately, they didn't have a square bread, therefore I had to use a round one.

Yep, seems good! Well then, itadakimasu.

After eating dinner, it's preparations to sleep.

That being said, my sleeping posture is leaning on the wall while sitting wrapped in a blanket with two children clinging to my sides. The same as in Gaya Forest.

Normally, it would be necessary to set up a barrier with Barrier Stones. It's a defensive measure against both monsters and humans. Bandits for example. Also, I'm afraid to say that nasty adventurers also exist. They would attack an unwatched place and steal all your belongings.

But, I'm the only one of us who can stand a watch. I have a feeling that my body would be able to go on without sleep for a few days, but I have no intention of trying it out.

It's all right. We will definitely wake up when a person with ill intent approaches us.

That being said, goodnight.

The next day, the second day.

When I wake up my eyes, Allen and Elena were already up and staring fixedly at my face while clinging to my arms as usual.

I fix my clothes and prepare a simple breakfast.

The menu is sausage and scrambled eggs, fresh bread with strawberry jam.

The sausage and eggs are quickly cooked. The strawberry jam is something Syl prepared for me, made in Japan.

There's a proper product information-like paper on the jar, but its contents are written with Aetherdia's letters. And, there is MADE IN JAPAN written on it.

Did Syl intentionally replace it? To be sensible to such degree.....

Well, we three gratefully consumed it.

We took a little break after breakfast and commenced the capturing of the 5th floor.

We advanced smoothly just like on the first four floors without change.

The Dropped Items weren't too expensive, but the amount is significant.

There's no problem if you have a Magic Bag, but there are probably many low ranked adventurers who still don't have it. If that's the case, they would probably start sorting out their stuff and dispose of the rest. They probably think it's all right to dispose of it since the market price is low~ Particularly, this "Slime Jelly" which doesn't look like it has a use...

What is this used for? It's squishy and cool, it's pleasing to touch.

Can this be used for mattress or cushion? Doesn't it sound lovely? All right, let's try making it if I find the time.

First of all, Infinite Storage may fertilize it, but I don't know its use so I will put it together with everything else.

Speaking of baggage, Allen and Elena are fundamentally empty-handed. I want to keep the things they have at them at the minimum if they ever separate from me by any chance~ I don't have plans to get separated, and there is no problem to start looking for them if they do immediately, but things like money... water, and preserved food. And a knife would also be good to have~

But, all that packed in a bag would get in the way during close combat... Besides, it would be heavy~

Should I get some low-class Magic Bags for the kids? But, isn't it dangerous for children to carry expensive magic tools around?

Alright! Let's ponder about this matter a bit more!

Beshi.

Dokan.

Zuruzuru...

Batain.

Ah, a wolf flew again.

The enemies are still lacking. We keep on advancing at a steady pace.

◇ ◇ ◇

The capturing proceeds and we are currently on the 8th floor. We have captured half of the dungeon.

The quality of the monsters increased a little. An insect monster with a hard shell that Allen and Elena can't defeat in one hit has started appearing.

The kids have a bad affinity with insect monsters, unlike the usual animal type. Although they won't get defeated, they will hurt their bodies by hitting that hard shell over and over again, so I decided to take care of the insects myself.

In addition, the monsters have stopped appearing alone and started attacking in groups. From small groups of 2~3 up to a big group of around 10.

We don't have any problems, but the first obstacle for the young adventurers is most likely this 8th floor.

While advancing——

"Uwa——!!"

A cry echoes from ahead.

"Please run a~way!!"

The desperate cry was from a party of adventurers. A party of young men and women in their teens.

A group of monsters is chasing the party. Wolves, Horn Rabbits and Slicer Bats, tens of various monsters in a group.

"Wa, hey! What are you doing!?"

A young adventurer stops right after passing us and shouts at us in panic.

"I want to escape quickly" and "We should have left it alone" emotions were transmitted to me from his expression.

"Wind Cutter."

When all people in my field of vision disappear, and all in front of me are monsters, I cast wind magic while emphasizing the magic power behind it.

Several wind blades pour on the monsters who changed the target on us.

Un, most of them got defeated.

However, a monster slips from within the cloud of dust. But, at that moment, Allen and Elena charge towards the monster and drive a kick into its body without reserve.

"Eeeeeeeeh——!!"

The young adventurers who witnessed that shout in disbelief.

## **Chapter 14**

Dungeon of Earth - Capture 2

""Picked up~""

Allen and Elena collect drop items and run up to me with their small hands full.

They seem to properly remember what I was doing in the seven floors until now.

"Thank you. Are you unhurt?"

I receive the items and pat the two children's head who nodded.

"Oniichan will go and have a talk with these people, can you two go and pick up more in the meantime?"

""Yea!""

There are still many drop items the two weren't able to carry so when I request them to pick them up, the two energetically answer me. They look overjoyed. To

think they would be so happy just because of my request, these children are seriously cute! I pass a jute bag to the kids, tell them to put the items in that and send them off.

Then, I turn around and look back at the boys and girls adventurers who were escaping.

“Now then, have you activated a trap?”

“We are terribly sorry!”

They are not prostrating as Syl normally does, but the boys and girls are bowing down enough that their body height halved.

They seem to understand correctly.

The adventurers have unspoken rules.

To explain it simply——

□The monster priority goes to the party/adventurer who attacked it first.

□Drop item belongs to the one who defeats the monster. However, if he leaves it without picking it up, it's considered as abandoned and other adventurers can pick it up without a complaint.

□Interfering is prohibited unless asked for help.

These are the unspoken rules.

In addition to these, there's one more important thing. Only this one, unlike the others, is considered a crime.

That is——

□Monster scapegoating act.

It's considered the most vicious act.

The scapegoating act these boys and girls did——is a crime.

The act of running away from a monster and involving a nearby person on the way happened quite frequently in the past.

That is still not that bad.

What is even worse is, pulling aggro and deliberately scapegoating another person. The case of where the scapegoat died are many. With the scapegoat dying, they will then defeat the wounded monster themselves.

Because these things occurred so frequently, it's now being treated as a crime.

“Well, I understand you didn't do it on purpose.”

These boys and girls probably ran away because they really felt in danger. The monsters weren't that strong, but these children couldn't handle it because there were dozens of them.

Besides, I wouldn't be so forgiving if they escaped after passing us, but they properly stopped and told us to run away. That earned them a good evaluation from me.

"..... Yes. There was a hidden room and when we opened it to take a look....."

"Hidden room, huh. That has triggered the defense mechanism... You seem to be reflecting on your mistake, so I won't pursue this matter anymore. I will overlook it this time, but be more careful in the future, okay?"

It's not like we suffered any damage, and they seem to be reflecting on it. Therefore I won't noisily nag them anymore.

At any rate, to think Low-Class dungeon also has traps~

We have ignored hidden rooms on the way so far. Bottom floors of Low-Class dungeon surely don't have anything worthwhile, so we went without looking for them.

""Many~!""

Just when we finished speaking, Allen and Elena trotted over with a bag full of materials.

"Thank you. Are you not tired?"

""We al~right."""

I receive the bag full of materials and pat the children's heads.

""Ah! There~""

"N?"

"Uwaaa! A Poison Spider!!"

Allen and Elena point at the ceiling while having their heads patted.

I look up and see a Poison Spider hanging there.

The boys and girls look towards the place Allen and Elena are pointing and make a fuss.

As the name suggest Poison Spider is a 1m dark red venomous spider. It doesn't have a lethal poison, but its poison will inflict strong paralyzation.

This spider excels at stealth, it will bite a person from behind, once the person stops moving it will capture him/her in its thread, and it will bring the person back to its nest still alive.

The poison can be immediately detoxified if there are companions around, but if alone, the venomous bite will become fatal. Therefore, this monster is responsible for many adventurer fatalities.

“Air Shot.”

I hit the Poison Spider hanging from the ceiling with magic. The crushed Poison Spider falls to the ground and turns into a drop item. The Poison Spider’s drop item seems to be its poison. For some reason, it was already in a bottle when it fell to the ground.

A dungeon is really a mysterious place. Just where did this bottle appear from.....

“..... It was defeated immediately.”

“N? The Poison Spider doesn’t have that much fighting ability if you are careful of its stealth, right?”

“Nono, you can’t defeat it that quickly. First, we can’t even reach it!”

“Well, it’s impossible with a sword, but don’t you have someone who can use magic in the party? If you don’t, you should have someone with a bow or throwing knives, right?”

“That is.....”

There may not be anyone who can use magic by the swords hanging from everyone’s waist. However, if done right, even these boys and girls should be able to defeat a Poison Spider.

Even if they can’t beat it in one blow, it’s possible to defeat the Poison Spider with a well-placed arrow or a knife.

“I don’t see anyone carrying a bow which leaves throwing..... do you perhaps lack a long distance attack?”

“As expected, is that bad?”

Children of this age probably think that magic and bow is too dull compared to a sword.

“No. It’s not like it’s absolutely indispensable. But, I believe it will increase the broadness of attacks you can use. The offensive power may be certainly lower than that of a sword, but it has the potential to shoot stuff down just like I did earlier, and it’s also usable to distract the opponent. Besides, you don’t need to abandon your primary weapon with throwing knives. It’s also all right to use stones instead of throwing knives.”

“..... Stones. I see!”

“Arrows and Throwing Knives are consumables, after all. Purchasing them at lower ranks is hard.”

Arrows and Throwing knives are cheap but fragile. They may get ruined after a single use. Their costs would then start piling up.

Of course, there are more durable ones, but they are something that low ranked adventurers can't possibly get.

In comparison, stones on the ground are free. Depending on the size and hardness, a stone can become a satisfactory weapon.

"Ah, came~"

"Again~"

Allen and Elena found another Poison Spider on the ceiling.

"Allen will throw~"

"Elena too~

"N?"

Saying that, both Allen and Elena pick up a baseball sized stone from the ground..... and threw.

—Bang!

Eh!?

A loud noise of a direct hit resounds.

It doesn't look like it was enough to finish it, but the Poison Spider falls on the ground while twitching.

""It fell~!""

"Eeeh!?"

The boys and girls let out shocked voices at the sight of the Poison Spider getting hit by children younger than them.

Ah, this reminds me, the two have a throwing skill... it also seems to have a reasonable proficiency.

The twitching Poison Spider stops moving and transforms into a drop item. It died.

"These children...."

The boys and girls are in great shock.

Un. Allen and Elena are extraordinary. You must not compare yourselves to them!

We parted from the boys and girls who returned to the surface and resumed the capturing.

## **Chapter 15**

### Dungeon of Earth - Capture 3

We have advanced smoothly through 8~10 floors with few short breaks.

The number of people coming in and out on these floors steadily decreased, and the hidden rooms and treasure chest we discovered are scarce.

The contents of the treasure chests were Low-grade Stamina and Mana Potions. Stamina potion is a magic potion that replenishes stamina while Mana potion is used by mages to recover magical power. They are the game's standard items.

They come in Low grade, Medium grade, High grade, and Special grade, the quality and amount of recovery increase the higher the grade is.

The ones we obtained are of Low Grade so their recovery power isn't that great. But, magic potions itself are expensive goods and are precious drops for adventurers in this dungeon.

""That way~""

I'm afraid to say that I have come all the way here without being tired or feeling a loss of magic power, though...

Well~ there might be a time where they will be useful so let's set them aside without selling them.

Speaking of magic potions, a magic potion that cures diseases and wounds, a Healing potion also exists on Aetherdia. In addition to drinking, it can also be apparently used directly on the wound. Furthermore, potions used for detoxifications and potions that temporarily increase physical strength also exist.

There also is a secret medicine among the Healing Potions. Well, you won't be able to see one easily, though. The secret medicine can heal any incurable diseases and apparently even restore lost limbs. I'd rather connect the torn off arm than grow a new one.....

N~ I want to see it, I don't want to see it... a complicated feeling.

The items in my possessions are generic drugs like medicine for cold and stomach medicine, but I don't have any Healing Potions. I think there won't be any problems since I have healing magic, but I would like to get my hands on one just in case.

""Here~""

Oh! The two children found stairs leading to the next floor.

The moment we descended on the 11th floor, a Wild Ape has leaped towards us.

"Kiiiii 𠮶!"

Wild Ape is an orangutan-like monster.

Despite the sudden attack, Allen and Elena pour kicks on the Wild Ape straight away.

The Wild Ape crashes into a wall. The Wild Ape who was suddenly flung against a wall in counterattack looks dumbfounded.

Allen and Elena pursuit that momentary opening. The defenseless Wild Ape ceased to breathe under the twins' kicks.

It's neck evidently snapped.....

The Wild Ape's corpse disappears and leaves behind a drop item. It's Wild Ape's fur. It's a good thing for a Low-Class dungeon. But, this much is not enough to make equipment of it. Let's deposit it in Infinite Storage for now.

Still, the perception and hand-to-hand combat sense of the twins is terrific.

They advance without getting lost and can discover monsters quickly.

Even though no one taught them, even I who know close to nothing about Martial Arts can understand their splendid movements. They are most likely moving on instinct.

I'm genuinely happy that some influential person does not shelter these two.

The thing Syl might have been worried about is this.

However, I have a certain feeling that I'm also taking advantage of them, but is that all right.....

""Here comes~""

Allen and Elena discovered another monster. A snake monster, Clay Snake has appeared.

"Oh, wait a moment!"

I stop Allen and Elena who were going to leap at the enemy.

The two obediently stop moving and fixedly stare at my face.

"That thing has poison in its fangs, let me take care of it."

That's right, the Clay Snake has a minuscule amount of poison in its fangs. Similarly to the Poison Spider from before, it's a monster I want the barehanded children to avoid fighting with.

When the two nod in affirmation, I shoot out the "Wind Cutter".

Of course, it was an instant kill. The dropped item is Clay Snake's skin.

As soon as I pick it up, another monster appears. Three Giant Bees, honey bees the size of an adult.

"Be careful of the stinger."

""Yess~""

When I remind the children to be careful, they cheerfully reply.

Un. Although it was only one word, the two's vocabulary steadily increasing. It's a good thing.

The Giant Bee is a monster with considerably nimble movements. They take full advantage of their aerial movements to attack Allen and Elena. Allen and Elena smoothly dodge that and counterattack. However, the Giant Bees retreat to the air where the two can't reach.

Allen and Elena who have an unusually hard time turn in pursuit of the Giant Bees.

Un. It's a game of tag no matter how I look.

I intend to help as soon as it becomes dangerous, but how can I destroy the spectacle of the twins having fun?

Oh! They have been chasing it individually at first, but the two now move in a pincer attack.

Elena chances while Allen sneaks around to the Giant Bee's destination. They safely brought it down the first one.

Cooperation is the twin's field of expertise. They can determine their roles just with eye contact.

They knock down the second one immediately. N? ..... I feel like they didn't make eye contact.

These two, are they actually using telepathy to communicate? The cooperation was so splendid it forced me to think that.

""Defeated~""

Allen and Elena had a hard time dealing with the bees at first, but in the end, it took them less than ten minutes to deal with the three bees. They pick up the bee's drop items and trot over to me.

"You worked hard."

I receive the drop items while praising and patting the twins' heads. The dropped items are 1 Bee Stinger and 2 jars of Honey.

Oh, it's honey! A very precious item on Aetherdia which lacks sweetness.

Of course, sugar is also being sold, but it's slightly higher in price. The price for one kg is around several thousand yen. It's around ten times more expensive than in Japan?

It's enough to be called luxury for a commoner. You would be able to stay a night at an inn with two meals at that price.

Because I have an absolutely higher income than I have had in Japan, I can buy anything if I say so myself.

However, I shouldn't do that. I'm hesitant about buying it. The quality isn't that good.

Therefore, I can't help, but keep on thinking about getting normal honey.....

Moreover, the honey inside the jars have a beautiful golden color and look incredibly delicious.

Un, if we meet more Giant Bees, let's take an aggressive stance against them!

We encountered Giant Bees immediately even without searching. Despite there being five of them this time, Allen and Elena defeated them right away.

Isn't their learning ability amazing? I thought that, but since there's nothing wrong about it, I decided to leave it alone.

The drop items are 1 Giant Bee's Wing, 2 Stingers and 2 Jars of Honey.

Doing well, so smooth!

Nevertheless..... is there a problem that the twins defeated 70% of the encountered monsters.....? The monsters I defeated are only poison monsters and hard-shelled insects, and I also acted when we encountered big groups. Allen and Elena dealt with everything else.

If I had to say, the two are advancing while fighting. But, they seem to be having fun, so I let them dealt with it unless it gets dangerous.

However, if other people saw it, won't they say that I'm working the children too much? Because I'm just watching from behind while the two children fight.

Shouldn't I be more responsible as a guardian? It's not like I'm forcing them to do it, so it's okay, right?

""Found it~""

The two found the stairs to the next floor. Do I rely on them too much?

## **Chapter 16**

Dungeon of Earth - Capture 4

Good morning.

Today is the third day since we entered the dungeon.

We have crisply advanced through the 12th floor yesterday and were able to find the stairs to the 13th in the evening. I have decided to stay the night before proceeding further.

Therefore, we are currently staying at the entrance to the 13th floor.

The plan was to head back to the town in three days, but I think we can capture the dungeon today or tomorrow if everything goes smoothly.

I have heard that once we defeat the boss on the 15th floor, we can use a transfer device that would take us directly to the first floor.

In the worst happens and we are not able to defeat the boss, we should be able to get back on the day before the next request.

Having decided to keep on advancing, I prepare the breakfast first.

Today's menu has been decided.

I beat eggs, sugar, and milk together to create an egg wash, soak the bread that was within the food Syl prepared for me in it. I melt butter in a pre-heated pan, put the bread in the pan and carefully cook both sides.

Yep. It's a French toast.

I pour the honey we obtained yesterday over the dish. Mm, it smells nice.

Well then, let's eat.

Oh! Yummy!

I understand the deliciousness with just a bite. Even though there's intense sweetness, it's not too heavy. Giant Bee's honey..... delicious. Indeed, this is worth obtaining by all means.

Allen and Elena also seem to be pleased with it. They are eating in a trance.

After I had observed Allen and Elena eat for a while, I wanted to resume my meal, but a group of Giant Bees suddenly appeared from within the passage. The prey came to us on their own.

"I will take care of it, you two eat up."

I stuff my cheeks with French toast, inform the two while trying to chew it down, stand up and face the Giant Bees.

"Air Shot."

First, I aim at the group and shoot a sphere of air.

I was able to shoot down several of them, but more than a half were able to avoid because of their nimbleness.

"Wind Cutter."

I shoot several wind blades this time.

The Giant Bees got shot in succession by the wide blades.

Good, I was able to defeat them all this time.

After beating all the Giant Bees, I went over and collected all drop items rolling on the floor.

Most of them were wings and stingers, but I was able to obtain two more jars of honey.

While returning to continue my breakfast, another monster emerged from the passage.

Huh? It's another Giant Bee. Let's clean up for the time being.

But, why do they keep on appearing?

I take a look at our breakfast and suddenly realize. Did the bees smell the sweet scent of honey and came over?

Oh! Could the Giant Bees be lured out by any chance?

It may be worth trying it out.

After the meal, we started the 13th-floor capture right away.

While doing so, I carried an opened jar of honey in my hand.

Then—

“Tou!” “Ho!” “Nsho!” “Yaa!”

As a result, the fact that the Giant Bees are attracted to the scent of honey has been established.

They took the bait! A seriously big catch.

Giant Bees assault us in sequence surprising me in the process. This completely exceeded my expectations!

Of course, the Giant Bees are knocked down by Allen and Elena who fight them joyfully without getting exhausted.

““H~on, h~on.””

Dozens of Giant Bees have appeared, but they were all defeated.

““E~y, e~i.””

It seems that honey has ultimately become Allen's and Elena's favorite, their mood soars with every discovered jar.

They make an incredibly nice smile each time they pick a jar up. That's too cute! Was that just now a Honey theme song? They make noises resembling singing while picking up the drop items, but that is also undisputedly cute!

““Honey, was there~!””

The Twins trot over to me with a smile and arms full of drop items. Because that was also too cute, I plentifully patted their heads.

They should be my siblings based on age, but I'm just like a foolish parent since the beginning.....

In the end, after a half a day of honey collecting, we smoothly advanced up to the end of the 14th floor where we found the stairs to the 15th floor.

Honey? Of course, we secured plenty!

## **Chapter 17**

Dungeon of Earth – Boss

Fourth day in the dungeon.

We advanced through the 15th floor's complex design smoothly and arrived at a massive double door made from soil.

It's finally time to challenge the boss, but this is the boss room, right? It indeed has a strange atmosphere.

I will be embarrassed if this doesn't turn out to be the boss room.....

While thinking so, I touch the heavy door and slowly open them——Gigigi, the door opens, and I face the room.

A spacious dome-like room is inside. The size is comparable to a small concert arena.

I lead Allen and Elena by their hands and step inside——Gatan, the door behind us shuts with a loud noise.

The behind shines when I look back at the closed door.

Looking back forward, light emits from the center of the room. And then, after several seconds when the light weakens, a beast's roar echoes around the room.

“Sha————!!”

Approximately 7-8 meters long worm appears at the place where the light emerged. Yeah, it's that. A gigantic earthworm.

I see, after a fixed period of time passes, the door automatically closes and then the boss comes out.

“Allen, Elena. You two wait here.”

The two nod in affirmation and I start running towards the worm.

“Wind Cutter.”

“Sha~!”

“Oops.”

I shoot magic towards the worm as a preliminary test. The worm avoids, and it throws its whole body towards me.

I twist my body and evade the worm's large body by running in a different direction.

This worm is unexpectedly fast for its size. It doesn't look like monotone magic will work against it.

Now then, how should I defeat this fellow——while in thought.....

"Sha~!"

The worm shoots Sand Ball at me.

"Hee~, then I will... Air Shot."

I shoot magic too and offset the opponent's magic.

"Next is..... Wind Arrow."

I shoot countless wind arrows straight ahead. If monotone magic is no good, then I just have to fire a spell it won't be able to evade.

Un? That's right, it's a simple brute force approach. I don't need overcomplicated tactics.

The trajectory of the Wind Arrow that flies straight ahead is easy to read, but it compensates with speed. Moreover, I shot dozens of them at once, as expected, the worm with its massive body size couldn't avoid everything even if it could move quickly.

"Sha————!!!!"

As planned, the Wind Arrows pierced the worm's body, it raised a suffering cry and wriggled in pain.

"This is the over! Wind Arrow."

I have used the chance it wriggled in pain and gathered a lot of magical power.

"!!! Sha————....."

Bang, the worm collapsed to the ground with its whole body hollowed.

It's over.

The Wind Arrows pierced its body, the worm's body faintly shines, its corpse disappears, leaving behind drop items.

After surprisingly defeating the worm with ease, "Low-Class dungeon's boss was just something like that" is what came to my mind first, I'm very troubled..... I wonder if the power bestowed upon me is in the cheat category?

I mean, all magic I used are general spells with about 50 proficiency.

Well, it's better than fighting a life-threatening battle. I gather the drop items while thinking such.

The drop items are a baseball-sized yellow magic stone, Worm Meat, and several worm fangs.

..... Earthworm meat. Worm Meat is a high-class ingredient? Uun... but, I don't want to eat something like that..... I will collect it for now, but do I sell or hoard it?

Ah! But, if I sell it, would it expose that we captured the dungeon? Ah, but, would the Guild staff be able to see it on my Guild Card?

□□□□

Dungeon Record: Fourth Dungeon "Earth" 15 floors captured.

Title: Captor of a Low-Class Dungeon

□□□□

When I took out the Guild Card to confirm, it was well listed there. Un, this is not okay. I will get exposed when I receive a Request.....

The capture itself is not the problem. The problem is that we have captured the dungeon only in a few days... First of all, let's keep quiet by not receiving any requests for a while!

That means the earthworm meat is getting stored inside the Infinite Storage!

When I came to a conclusion, tosun, I felt a light impact on my legs. Allen and Elena rushed to me and clung to my legs before I noticed.

"Good?"

"Over?"

"Thank you for waiting. It's over. You are not injured, right?"

""Is Alright~"

I was careful not to shoot magic into the children's direction, but I confirm to make sure. Un, no problems here.

Speaking of which, what about the records on the two's Guild Cards?

Thinking that, I take out Allen's and Elena's Guild Cards to check, and find that the two have the same records properly listed on their cards.

The condition seems to be to reach this floor regardless of actually damaging the boss.

—Gogogogogo.

A door suddenly appears on the opposite side of the room.

After putting the cards away, we passed through the door and entered a room with a crystal on a pedestal.

This seems to be the transfer device. We can get back to the 1st floor by touching the crystal.

Switching my gaze from the transfer device, I find a nicely decorated treasure chest at the back of the room. This room which opened after defeating the boss—has apparently a small chance for a treasure chest to appear.

Meaning that this is a complimentary gift?

It doesn't seem to be locked, and it doesn't look like there's a trap. I open it and see five red marble-like things inside.

Appraising it—

□□□□

Exploding Flame Sphere

An exploding sphere that will activate after pouring magical power inside and leaving fixed proximity of the caster.

□□□□

This has... a grenade-like feeling to it? Instead of pulling a pin, you pour magical power inside, right? It's an extraordinarily dangerous smelling magic tool.

... But, its power is worrisome. Should I try it somewhere once?

I take out the five spheres from the treasure chest and face the transfer device again after confirming that the treasure chest vanished.

All you have to do to activate the transfer device is to touch the crystal. Because the person that is holding onto the individual who touches the crystal transfer together, there is no need to leave anyone behind so I have decided to hold Allen and Elena in my arms and let them touch the crystal.

"All right. Then, touch that crystal."

""Yess~""

As Allen and Elena touch the crystal at the same time, I start feeling a little dizzy. We moved to a familiar looking place at the same time.

Looks like we safely arrived at the hall at the 1st floor. I check the map just in case and confirm that we are indeed on the 1st floor.

The dizziness was surely due to the transfer as I'm already feeling well. Confirming that there's no problem with Allen and Elena, I put the two down and lead them outside.

N~... outside!

The wind brushing my cheeks feels very nice.

Like this, we were able to capture a dungeon for the first time safely.

## **Chapter 18**

Three Doggies

It was just about noon when we got out of the dungeon. We ate lunch in front of the dungeon and set on grassy plains to return back to the town.

And then, I notice a snow-white dog fur? No..... wolf? 10 meters in front of us.

Isn't that wolf sitting in a proper posture while vigorously wagging its tail? Is it someone's pet or a monster, a quite worrying scene.

If I had to say..... a pet? Its actions are that of a perfectly trained pet dog..... Also, Allen and Elena are not cautious of it at all.

After thinking if we should intercept or avoid it, I appraise it just in case——

□□□□

### **Status**

Name: —

Race: Fenrir (Takumi's Contracted beast)

Occupation: —

Age: 5

Level: 25

### **Skills**

- Water Magic
- Ice Magic
- Claw Slash
- Evasion
- Shrinking
- Night Vision
- Presence Detection

□□□□

.....

..... Yep, it's a monster. Moreover, a Fenrir. It's an S-Rank monster.....

Fenrir is water and ice attributed wolf with quick movements, strong claws, and fangs which like to fight at a close range. An awfully strong monster, normally...

It can't be seen as a monster while wagging its tail like that.

But, this, what's going on.....

My contracted beast, what does that mean? I don't remember making any contracts, though??

When I check my status just in case, the skills "Monster Handling" "Taming" and "Monster Contractor" suddenly appeared.

I have no knowledge about this. This must be that. It's Syl, right?

I can't leave it as it is, so when I beckon it to come over, the Fenrir's tail wagging increases and it runs over. And then, when it comes to my feet, it sits down again.

Un. Good doggy.

Nevertheless, looking at it up close, it's huge. Even after it sat down, my line of sight nearly didn't change..... Is it bigger than a cow?

The children would be completely squashed during a play. Even I'm in danger.....

While observing the Fenrir in front of me, the Fenrir was also jii~ staring at me with its blue eyes.

"You are a Contracted beast?"

"Wafu."

It replied to me when I asked.

It seems to understand what I say. If that's the case——

"Hand."

"Wafu."

"Second."

"Wafu."

"Down."

"Wafu."

Yeah, flawless.

It seems to have received general training.

"Wafu!"

"N?"

The Fenrir barks, drawing my attention back to at it as if it was expecting something.

What? But, a typical pet dog would be like this, right?

“..... There, there~?”

When I pat its head, it snuggles up to me comfortably. Seems like I was right. A complete pet dog!? You, are you really an S-Rank monster?

While patting it, the hem on both sides of my clothes was being pulled at. Allen and Elena are pulling on the hem.

“What’s the matter?”

“” .....

When I look down to match their eyes, the two lift my hands up, turn my palms upwards and put their little hands on it.

.....

... N?

“..... Hand?”

“Wan!”

“~~~!!”

What is this cuteness!!!

Because they were too cute, I ended up hugging the two unconsciously.

Hand!! What!? Imitating the Fenrir!?

Eh? Jealousy? Where they perhaps jealous because I paid attention to the Fenrir!?

I was troubled about treating the Fenrir as a pet, but they imitated it!! That’s seriously adorable, though!? I must pay full attention to those two!

I squeeze Allen and Elena in my embrace so tightly they kya, kya happily, while the Fenrir rubbed its face against us and began to lick.

In the end, Allen, Elena and the Fenrir ended up mutually hugging each other.

Ah, because leaving a contracted beast alone in a place like this is impossible, I named the Fenrir Joule, put Allen and Elena on its back and set towards the town.

The town walls are visible. We have arrived in the town before it got dark.

There, I decided to take Joule into my shadow.

Thanks to Dark Magic, contracted beasts can enter the shadow of the user and be summoned back if necessary.

Unlike Tamed monsters, Contracted beasts are not required to always accompany you. That is the strength of Contracted beasts, is what I think.

Like this, I can walk around with S-Rank Joule without attracting unnecessary attention.

Allen and Elena were reluctant, but it would definitely get noisy if we walk with Joule around, right?

It seems it can become small as a puppy with its "Shrinking" skill, but because I have no collar, it's better like this today.

I better prepare a collar soon. While thinking so, we entered the town.

## Chapter 19

The Spilled Truth

After entering the town, we went straight to the temple first. Of course, it's to talk with Syl.

(Syl, you here~?)

(Uwa—————n!! Takumi-sa——n!!□

Uwa, what happened!?

As soon as I spoke, I could hear Syl's outrageous crying voice.

(I'm glad..... sniff..... you came to see meeee~)

Syl continues to cry.

Did I do something? N~? ..... Nn!?

Ah! That thing!? That thing when I picked up Allen and Elena!

Which reminds me, I didn't contact him since then. I just had nothing to talk about, but does Syl think that I'm still angry!?

It's Syl, he's definitely under that impression.

(Ah~..... Syl, sorry..... I'm not mad at you so stop crying)

(Dullard... No..... I was in the wrong..... snuff)

Un. I can't tell him that I completely forgot about that matter.....

(Look, don't cry. I'm at fault for not coming sooner, but I have something I'd like to ask you)

(Ye"s. What is it?)

I decided to stop worrying about the crying Syl and get down to business.

(Today, my contracted beast has appeared, but it was sent by you, right Syl?)

(Contracted beast?)

(Monster, a Fenrir. It's now in my shadow)

(Fenrir!? Ah——!! Water's! So cunning!! Even though I wanted to send one first!!)

Oya? Looks like it wasn't Syl. But, he seems to know the sender. They are related to a god, after all.....

(Even though I told him to wait!! Mou! I will also send one immediately!!)

(Nono, wait a moment! Before that, by "Water's" you meant that the one who sends it is the Water God-sama?)

(More precisely, the Water God's retainers. It definitely was the Nagas. It looks like they wanted to express their gratitude. I'm also looking after many other things for you. I will send it now)

Before the excited Syl could do something I stopped him and confirmed the sender of Joule for the second time.

Water God... It was from his retainers.

—Piron♪

Moreover, they sent items.

Gratitude..... No, it's definitely about Allen and Elena, but is this all right? I thought it would be "Water God" because Allen and Elena possess water skills, but...

Although he didn't give a detailed explanation, is it all right for him to get exposed by himself?

Would it be better just to ignore it from now on? I can figure it out from Water God's retainers, but Syl hasn't realized yet...

When I confirm the items that were transferred to me, the item list got absurdly long.

Even though I just skimmed through it, isn't this full of treasures!

This is more than I expected.

(Is it all right to receive that much?)

(Yes, please accept it. The Water Nagas went out in high spirits to search for the next item, so I think they will bring more to me again. I will send it to you that time!)

(Eh? Next? Why!?)

Nono! This much is already enough!? Don't I have enough to be considered a millionaire?

(I have properly received their feelings! More than this is a bit!)

(Why? Please, accept it without hesitation. It's something that was originally crammed in a warehouse anyways. I'm just sorry that I could drag out only this. Ah, even though it was crammed there's no problem with the condition!)

That is not the problem here. I am not worried about the condition!?

The items can be preserved in the Infinite Storage, I'm not worried about the preservation technique of gods!

In the first place, isn't the sense of values of gods wrong? They surely don't need many things... Besides, a god with a sense for money seems somewhat unpleasant.....

Ah~, nevertheless, aren't the items I received offerings to a god? Is that all right? No, it's okay, right..... the god himself is giving it to me.....

Un, I would feel bad investigating further.

(Syl, I'm thankful, but I won't be able to use it if I receive more)

(It's all right! It's something we completely forgot about after not touching it for several hundreds of years! It would definitely find more use with Takumi-san!)

Syl starts talking with a scarily refreshing face.

Forgot!? Aren't you too cruel!? To whom? Of course, to the people that made the offering.

You are receiving their feelings properly? Well... in that case.

But, that has nothing to do with me accepting it or not. Eh, I won't receive a divine punishment? What is this... are you threatening me!?

In the end, I was forced to give up.

To lose a quarrel with Syl, I feel somehow disappointed in myself.....

(Well then, all that's left is my Contracted beast!)

Tsk! He didn't forget.

Because it's Syl, I was expecting him to forget.

(I have Joule already, it's all right)

(Why!? If you have it, your battle force will increase, you can even use it for traveling! It's convenient!)

(No, it certainly is convenient and cute, right? But, taking care of animals is hard?)

Although I still don't know what it takes, if they keep on increasing would be a bit...

(It's all right! There's no problem even if you lead the Contracted beast alone. Feeding is not necessary, all you have to do is to let it play outside occasionally!)

You can walk around with it when it's in its small, pet form. Ah! That being the case, you will need a collar)

S-Rank monster as a pet..... it certainly has a friendly character and doesn't look like a monster.....

Collar, huh... I would like it if it's flexible, but you see...

(But~.....)

(Then, I will return that Fenrir to water! And then I will send a new child to Takumi-san!)

(Why did it become like that)

(That's because Takumi-san is my family, you know! You should have a wind attributed Contracted beast, not a water attributed one!

Syl's voice became tearful.

Does he dislike me having a different attributed Contract beast?

(Ah~ I understand! I understand already! I will leave it to you)

(Yes! Leave it to me! The water one is a dog, so I will send a cat? Or perhaps a bird? Ah! I will send it tomorrow so, could you go outside the town then?)

(Alright)

As Syl said, our battle force will increase, it won't become a nuisance, and it concerns Syl's dignity as the Wind God, I should just accept.

With my acknowledgment, Syl starts choosing the Contracted beast.

(What should I pick~ Would one for traveling be better?)

(Syl?)

(No, will scouting be more useful? N~-----)

(O~i)

..... He isn't listening.

Well, I asked what I wanted to ask... Oh, well.

(Then, see you later)

Looks like my words don't reach Syl who is happily choosing the Contracted beast. Because it couldn't be helped, I said the greetings for my own sake and left the temple.

## **Chapter 20**

Force Reinforcement

The next day, we left through the south gate and arrived at a prairie. Because we came without visiting the Guild, I'm in a complete whole picnic mood.

Allen and Elena are already chasing Joule around the meadows.

—Piron♪

I was relaxing while watching the kids play. And then, I heard the sound I already got used to recently.

Then, a shadow of an animal entered my vision.

Are? There are two?

Doesn't it say they are both my Contracted beasts when I appraise them?

□□□□

Status

Name: —

Race: Thunderhawk (Takumi's Contracted beast)

Age: 3

Level: 20

## Skills

- Lightning Magic
- Beak Peck
- Flight
- Surprise Attack
- Farsight
- Night Vision
- Area Investigation

□□□□

The Thunderhawk is a small hawk with gold-colored feathers.

It manipulates Lightning magic, and its quick movements itself are that of lightning, it's an A-Rank monster.

Even though I said small, it's around 30cm tall. Is it just barely able to stand on my arm?

As a test, I display my arm horizontally, before long, the Thunderhawk who was circling above me lands on my arm.

There doesn't seem to be any problem. However, its nails unexpectedly cut into my arm. I'm wearing a leather jacket, so it doesn't hurt, but would an arm cover that Hawkers use necessary in the future?

The second beast who came along is already rubbing its head against my stomach while emitting a rumbling noise from its throat.

██████

Status

Name: —

Race: Celestial Tiger (Takumi's Contracted beast)

Age: 5

Level: 25

## Skills

- Wind Magic
- Flight
- Claw Slash
- Evasion
- Shrinking
- Night Vision
- Presence Detection

██████

It's a tiger..... a white tiger with blue eyes. Celestial Tiger is an S-Rank monster.

A monster which can manipulate the wind and run in the sky freely. It's said that Celestial Tigers can pass even through devastating storms.

Its size is similar to Joule.

Syl was torn between a cat and a bird..... It's a bird. Thunderhawk is definitely a bird. The Celestial Tiger is..... well, it certainly is a feline, right?

However, I didn't think he would send me both.

I named the two new additions immediately. The Celestial Tiger is Feat and the Thunderhawk is Bolt.

Then, I retrieve the items from **Infinite Storage** that I received from Syl. There was a hill when I took it all out.

Seems like Syl prepared quite a lot.

He said he would prepare a collar, but it's not just that, there's also a pendant, a bracelet, and a ring.

A mountain of materials. Detailed embroidery, leather items, and even metal armor.

From simple to cute and gorgeous clothes. Various items that could support every hobby you may want to do.

Furthermore, it's flexible to the degree that every person and even beasts would be able to use it.

The same old lavish hospitality...

""Sparkly~""

Before I noticed, Allen and Elena returned to me and looked at decorations in their hands.

..... Are? Wait... a moment.....

These are jewels!? All these stones are jewels!? I thought they were Magic stones, but I was obviously wrong!

Sapphire, ruby, emerald, diamond!?

The items Allen and Elena were looking at were all made with gorgeous jewels. Of course, it's sparkly~ then!

No~ that seriously surprised. It was a jaw-dropping surprise.

More than practical use, this would have artistic value, right? It's that. The rich people attach it to their pets to brag about their superiority thing.....

For Joule and others? Nonono, no way~ Anyway, I decided to put things that didn't look necessary right now away.

I like More simple, or rather more modest design~.

"N~... this is good."

□□□□

Collar of Nullification

A collar with a (medium) abnormal status resistance.

□□□□

What caught my eye is a smooth leather belt with silver embroidery and a large magic stone. The effect it has is good. Let's use this. There seems to be more than one.

A blue magic stone for Joule. I then put a collar with a green magic stone on Feat, confirmed the collars' sizes, and made them both shrink.

"Yep. Seems all right."

The collar properly shrank with the body. Magic tools are seriously convenient~

""Wanwan!?"

“Kyan!”

““Nya~ nya~!?””

“Na~u.”

Suddenly, Allen and Elena got surprised at Joule’s and Feat’s small appearances and imitated them to ensure that they are Joule and Feat.

Joule and Feat properly replied to Allen and Elena’s call.

I really wanted to take a photo of the scene of two children playing with two animals, but I don’t have a camera, so I gave up. How regrettable...

Pulling myself together, I pick the next item.

“Ah, this may be good.”

□□□□

Strong Arm Bracelet

A bracelet with (small) physical strength increasing effect.

□□□□

What caught my attention next are golden bracelets. An increase in offensive ability is good. I took the small bracelet to Joule’s and Feat’s forepaw, and it shrunk to fit their small sizes.

Joule and Feat should be good with this. I decided to find a magic tool for Bolt next.

□□□□

Pendant of Nullification

A pendant with a (medium) abnormal status resistance.

□□□□

□□□□

Bracelet of the Gale

A bracelet with (small) speed increasing effect.

□□□□

These two?

I put the pendant and bracelet on Bolt immediately.

Will his balance worsen if I put it only on one leg? Thinking that, I let Bolt fly in the sky once with the magic tool on.

Ah~..... Yeah, doesn't seem to be a problem. Bolt smoothly flies in the sky.

He comes back, lands on my shoulder and sings "Pii" while rubbing the top of its head against my cheek. Looks like he likes it.

When I finished choosing magic tools for the three beasts, I looked at Allen and Elena who were staring at me while carrying Joule and Feat in their arms.

They looked so jealous the whole time I was choosing the tools..... Joule and others have matching tools.

Is this good? Nono, this is not a choker, but a collar. You two can't wear this, okay!?

Eeh!? Don't feel so down..... I will choose something for Allen and Elena right away, so wait a moment.

"Here Allen, Elena. How about this?"

I showed the two the magic tools for our use I found after I looking for magic tools for the beasts.

□□□□□

Angel's Pendant

A pendant with a (medium) magic attack resistance effect.

□□□□□

□□□□□

Tough Ring

A ring with a (small) physical attack resistance effect.

□□□□□

□□□□□

Tracking Ring

A ring which indicates the location of the wearer on the map.

□□□□□

A wing pendant made out of silver on a leather strap. I put rings on both sides of the pendants and tie it around Allen and Elena's necks.

In Allen's and Elena's case, defenses were the first choice.

In addition, a tracking ring. This is a magic tool that functions as a GPS, which reflects on my map. This was the only magic tool that was standing out.

Syl must have intentionally prepared this, so I know their location even if we get separated.

""Ehehe~""

"You like it?"

""Yea!""

Allen and Elena lift their pendants and joyfully stare at it.

## Idle Talk 2

A Virtuous Existence

"Fuu."

After sending the selected Contracted beast to Takumi-san, I sigh and rest on the sofa.

I'm relieved that this will reduce Takumi-san's burden by a little bit.

A human that died because of me.

A soul that was excluded from the circle of reincarnation after passing away.

Although I didn't do it on purpose, even though it was a complete accident on my part, his cursing, and absurd demands, as the one responsible I was fully prepared to them.

He, however, maintained a calm attitude and inquired about his future. He really is an able youth.

For those reasons, I placed my hopes in him.

If it's him——

◇ ◇ ◇

"Children of Water God"

The Twins Takumi-san named Allen and Elena.

Their father is our brethren, Windell. Their mother is an Aetheridian woman of the human race. It's unfortunate, but the mother died giving birth.

As expected, the mother's body couldn't hold giving birth to God's children. Still, the children were born safely.

The children splendidly inherited the Water God's features.

They inherited the azure hair and golden eyes, but the problem is their power. Those children are hiding preposterous potential.

When they were still babies, their instincts took over, and they destroyed the container in self-defense. Thanks to that, most of their power fell asleep in the depths of their bodies.

N? You ask if it's possible for a child to be born between a god and a human?

If I have to decide between if it's possible or not..... it is. The probability is one/several hundred billion, though. Moreover, the possibility of the child inheriting the god's power is even lower.

Therefore, Allen and Elena are really rare existences.

Thanks to their power being dormant, I'm relieved that they are not recklessly running wild.

But, they are in a condition where they can explode at any given time..... If that happens, the nearby town, country..... no, Aetherdia itself will be in danger.

They were in such a state.

However, I'm the Wind God.

The children are Water God's children. Even if the world falls in danger, I can't get involved.

Generally, Water God's children would be taken to a Shrine, and everything would be resolved.

Resolved!

Despite that..... that fellow!!!

Water God no baka!

At a time like this, he went on a honeymoon with some women to another dimension. He never returned back since then!

Where did you gooo! At least tell me where you are going!! Baka~!

He's most likely so indulged in Aetherdia's women that he didn't even notice that his children were born.

Don't get carried out by women and do your work! Good grief! Water God's retainers are so pitiful.

Water God's retainers noticed the birth of the children. However, as his retainers, they don't have the authority to travel together with Water God's children.

When their mother died, and they became orphans, when their miser landlord sold them to a slave trader, when they were locked in a dark basement for months and years, they were not able to do anything, but watch.

At painful times like this, I met Takumi-san.

He became my, Wind God's retainer, but he's living on Aetherdia as a person. If he meets Water God's children as a person, he won't become interference in the domain. Therefore, I entrusted it to Takumi-sam.

It's as you know after that.

Without explaining him anything, a surprise attack that won't permit him to abandon the children. Although it can be said I used him, there was no other way.

As expected, he wasn't able to leave the children alone. He has begun taking care of the children after that.

The children embraced Takumi-san immediately. Although everything went according to my plan, I couldn't help, but feel guilty.

(..... Was my existence a godsend?)

When he said that, I couldn't refute.....

(Speaking honestly, if only you told me right away instead of stealthily scheming..... is what I'm thinking)

I'm really sorry. That's right, huh..... Takumi-san would take care of the children if I properly explained the situation to him, surely.....

(It's okay already. It's okay to rely on you when I encounter trouble, right?)

Of course! I will do anything that's within my power! Please rely on me more and more!

(I understand. I will be relying on you at that time. Laters)

—even though you said that~

Uu~

Takumi-san hasn't contacted me since then. He's definitely mad at me.....

◇ ◇ ◇

(Syl, you here~?)

Takumi-san has finally contacted me.

I'm glad..... I'm really glad~ I have thought you wouldn't come anymore!

I have started crying tears of relief.

Hearing Takumi-san's soothing story, a Fenrir apparently appeared as his Contracted beast!

What a thing!

Even though I intended to send a Contracted beast to Takumi-san after receiving his permission! Because Takumi-san didn't contact me for a while, that talk was delayed.

Therefore, while I was patiently waiting, Water God's retainers selfishly send him a Contracted beast.

Why did this happen in the first place——

Water God's retainers regularly check the state of the children. They must have noticed Takumi-san's existence at that time. That must be it.

Then, they must have immediately investigated Takumi-san. Thus, they should have noticed that Takumi-san is my retainer.

They then contacted me regarding the details. So, I explained. Everything that was included in my plan.

Water God's retainers were very grateful. They who couldn't do anything directly wanted to express gratitude in a way.

When they found out they could aid Takumi-san, they prepared a massive amount of items for him just like I did.

Our thinking is the same, after all..... if we are to support him openly, we should do it at least this much.

But, Takumi-san showed disapproval to receiving the items. He said he already received enough.

But, Takumi-san, by taking care of those children, you are saving Aetherdia, you know? Besides, those items don't even reach the tip of an iceberg to us.

Therefore, you won't receive a divine punishment by accepting this much, you know

Right, right, I will prepare the Contracted beast, okay?

Eh? You don't want it? For what reason!? It will definitely be useful to you, so accept it, please!

In the end, I received Takumi-san's approval.

I did my best!

I have to choose at once! I can't send a cowardly Contracted beast, after all.

Ah, that's right. Even the Water God's retainers should be able to grant the "Water Magic" skill.

Is that okay even though I am the Wind God? Of course, it is.

It's always better to have more attributes, right? I want to ease Takumi-san's burden even by a little bit. This much is nothing to me.

Now then, what should I give Takumi-san who I rolled up in this mess next?

## **Chapter 21**

Showing Interest

Allen and Elena are showing off their pendants to Joule and the others.

They seem to be quite pleased with it.

I in the meantime check the contents of the『Infinite Storage』.

To be honest, I have been lost in the contents of the『Infinite Storage』myself. Furthermore, a lot of things were added to it yesterday and today.

Therefore, I decided to organize before it's too late.

Let's confirm the newly obtained things first.

I view the screen with the list of items I received from Water God's retainers.

The characters lined up in a row. I confirm them one by one.

A lot of clothes and waterproof overcoats. Ah, there's even a tent! Then there's fish, seaweed and other marine materials and products.

Uwa, there's even a water bottle that can be refilled with magical power! Super~ convenient! Moreover, it's not just one, there are several of those tools, so generous.

Food, clothes, weapons, armors, medicine, magic tools, monster materials..... I assign each and every item in its classification.

I can even equip Allen and Elena because there were item bags! They may be a little concerned about it, but because it's a small belt pouch they will surely quickly get used to it.

What do I put in? Surely some money. Should I also make them carry their own Guild Cards? Next, the water bottle... what about preserved food? Dried meat? Also, some dried fruits for snacks and some candy.

Extra clothes, an overcoat, and a towel. Ah, a knife too. There are small folding knives, so this should be good. Materials..... mithril? Un, why not? Since we have enough! Let's not worry about it.

In the end, I filled it with items that 5-year-old child wouldn't really need, but..... oh, well?

I'm just worried that Allen and Elena would get targeted if they use the items in public.

"Allen, Elena."

I call the two and tie the magic bags to their belts.

"This is Allen's and this Elena's. Be sure not to lose it while going outside, okay?"

""Ye~s.""

When entering the town, the two joyfully took out their Guild Cards from their magic bags.

◇ ◇ ◇

"....."

“Elena, what are you looking at? ..... A general store?”

While walking back to the inn through the shopping district, Elena stops and jii~... she stares at a certain place. When I look at what's she's looking right at, I see a female-oriented general store-like shop. I see girls choosing hair ornaments over at that shop.

As expected, a girl would have an interest in things like these.

“Elena, want to take a look?”

When I ask her, Elena's face starts alternating between the shop and me. After a short while, she lightly nods.

She seems to be interested, after all.

Various clothes and colored threads are on display in the shop. Rather than a general store, a handicrafts shop?

Still, it sparked Elena's interest as she restlessly looked around the shop.

I also looked around the shop and found a white lace ribbon among the displayed products.

“Oneesan, can this ribbon be used as hair ornament as it is?”

“Yes, it can. They are all 50G each.”

I thought it might be a handicraft that needs to be sewn on first, but it seems it can be used as it is.

Of course, I don't know because I have never bought anything like that before. Should I buy it?

The price..... un? Even if I ask, I don't know if it's cheap or expensive. It's the price of a single meal on Aetherdia. Is that a reasonable price?

Well, we have more than enough to buy it so there's no problem.

“Elena, come here.”

I crouch down near Elena, I bunch the hair behind her right ear together and put the ribbon in it.

Doesn't it have quite a nice feeling? The white ribbon makes Elena's azure hair flourish, I think it looks excellent.

“How nice, it suits her well. Oniisan, how about another one on the second side?”

“Yeah. I will take it.”

Certainly, this hairstyle will look better on both sides.

While thinking that, I receive the exact same ribbon from the good at the business lady and do the same on the left side.

"How nice, how nice. I have a mirror here Ojouchan, take a look."

The shop assistant lady takes out a hand mirror and presents it to Elena. Elena jii~ at her hair... then her smile blossoms.

"You like it?"

When I ask, Elena gave me a slight nod.

She seems to be pleased with it, let's buy more in different colors.

"Then, shall we buy some other colors? Elena, what colors do you like?"

When I look at Elena who faced the display of ribbons and chosen her favorite colors—

She chose a green and black ribbons and picked them up.

I thought she would definitely pick a pink or red, but that wasn't the case.

"You like that one?"

"Yea!"

"... N~ Elena, I think that color won't go too well with your hair color, though?"

"This! Oniichan's color!"

My color? Certainly, it's close to my hair and eye color.....

"She really loves Oniisan, I see~ Hey, ribbons don't have to be primarily used in hair."

"..... That's right, huh. Elena, is one of each color okay?"

"Yeah!"

Certainly, there's no need to use it in hair especially, let's buy it since Elena picked it herself.

Besides, she chose my hair and eye colors, she did something adorable.

"Then, this pink, cream, and light blue too? Two of each, please. Also, is that mirror perhaps for sale?"

I choose another three colors that seemed suitable for Elena.

Also, might as well buy a mirror, right? But, would a handicrafts shop sell those?

"This? I'm afraid to say not. This is something sold three stores from here."

Ah, as expected. But, let's buy it later since it's close.

"Rather than that, Oniisan! I have a favor to ask."

"A favor?□

"Yes! Won't you dress the children in this for me to see!?"

The slightly excited woman presents a white-hooded cape in each of her hands.

"I think it's okay, but."

"Really!?"

When I approved, the woman approached Allen and Elena to put the capes on at once.

Then, as expected, the two quickly hid behind my back.

They are able to speak in public, but they can't talk yet directly with someone except for me. Because of that, having someone dress them is..... impossible.

"Ah~....."

"Ah, indeed. These children are not used to strangers. Could you lend it to me?"

I received the capes from the depressed woman and helped the two put them on.

This time..... rather than the two putting it on themselves, they want me to put it on for them, huh~ Is it okay to be enjoying this sense of superiority? No, I can't... I have to let them become accustomed to strangers bit by bit.....

Nevertheless, this cape, it feels nice on touch? Was it made with a good fabric? The cape is thick, it doesn't look like it could be worn after it gets hot.

"Can you put the hoods up!?"

"?"

After I had finished putting it on, I put the hoods up as the woman said.

"!! This is~~"

The hood surprised me. This is so cute!

There are animal ears on top of the hood!

Allen's are semicircular ears, Elena's are triangular.

Allen and Elena tilted their heads at me who is in agony, but that gesture wasn't something an ordinary person could survive. It can't be helped, but to fall into even deeper agony, right?

"So good! Amazingly nice!! Ah~ As I expected, it really suits these children!"

"You made this?"

"That's right. I'm also a tailor, after all. This is something I made a long time ago, but you see~ the moment I saw these children, I couldn't help it, but want them to put it on!!"

This person is apparently also a tailor. That explains why several clothes are on displayed.

"Are you selling this?"

Because the two are adorable in it, if she's selling it I would like to buy it. The seasons already changed, but there's still room to grow so when it gets chilly again, they will be able to wear it.

"Of course! But, is that all right? It's made from a good fabric so the price is quite high. It's an unsold item so there's a discount, but..."

"It's all right. It suits the two well, after all."

"Really!? You saved me!!"

Thus, I immediately bought the two kemonomimi capes.

Ah, before I forget, we also visited the nearby shop to purchase the mirror.

Because I have bought lots for Elena this time, I will have to buy Allen something next, is what I thought, but..... but, what do you buy for boys?

..... Nn? What would be good?

Girls are easy to understand. It was a ribbon and a mirror this time. It will be an accessory next time. A stuffed toy after that...

Then, for a boy? When I ask, the answer gets jammed.

What did I get when I was small?

——Games and manga? They don't have that in this world.....

——A soccer ball or baseball glove? That's also not here...

——A plastic model? Not here.....

——Building blocks? Would it be useful even if they sell it? In the first place, would the two play with building blocks?

Nn? This is no good..... I can't think of anything good.....

After thinking for a while and not figuring anything out, I have decided to put Allen's shopping on hold.

Sorry, Allen..... I will think about it, so when there's another opportunity.....

## **Chapter 22**

The Knights' Subjugation Request

"Gaya Forest" monster subjugation request.

The objective is thinning out the monsters and investigating whether monster nests were built in the vicinity of the town and sweep them if they were.

—Gaya Forest.

A very dangerous forest with a degree of risk at rank A, where monsters run rampant in significant numbers.

It is said that the central part of the forest is the territory of monsters so powerful that no one was able to return from there yet safely.

But, that does not mean that monsters are concentrated only in the center of the forest. The monsters appear even along the border of the forest.

The monsters that escape from the central part are classified as C-Rank and D-Rank. Nevertheless, they are still a great threat to ordinary people.

In addition, the strong monsters..... it's not like A-Rank monsters never come outside of the forest.

When they come out of the forest, the damage to humans inevitably increases.

Therefore, to influence the vicinity of the town..... a sweeping force is needed to clean up the near forest.

It's usually done just by knights without needing to have the help of adventurers.

This is a special case because of the place that is Gaya Forest.

Even if one enlists to knights and diligently trains, there is only a handful of people who can stride along in the Gaya Forest.

In addition, the town of Shirin is right around the border near a town in the Argo Kingdom. Although a friendly country, the town can't be left defenseless with all influential people going to the Gaya Forest.

Because of that, adventurers are called for help.

Influential people including A-Rank and B-Rank adventurer parties are being gathered.

As for me, I have received a designated request from the Knights branch Captain Grunwald Ruven-sama to participate in the joint subjugation.

◇ ◇ ◇

On the appointed day. I stopped by the Adventurer's Guild with Allen and Elena first. My purpose was to check the details about the request.

Honestly, I didn't hear what sort of request this time's request is. Just the usual situation.

I didn't so I wanted to grasp the contents of the requests, so I won't get in the way. The Guild is on the way to the west gate, after all.

Therefore, I scanned the request board and then went to the gathering place at the west gate.

There, Knights loading several carriages and adventurers who also accepted the request are already gathered. When the people noticed our presence, they looked at us with suspicious and sharp gazes.

I know I stand out because I have children with me, but what an unpleasant atmosphere.

For now, I ignore the stares and approach Wald-sama who is giving instructions.

“Ou, you came!”

Wald-sama who noticed us lifts up one hand and walks towards us.

“Good morning, Wald-sama.”

“You properly came. The little ones came too as expected.”

“Since I have received the request I would naturally come. Besides, Wald-sama understood that the children would go with me when you have given me the request, right?”

Wald-sama knows the circumstances of Allen and Elena. If you knew, why would you want me to participate in the request!

“Hahaha. You guys will be all right. Besides, I put you guys into my team.”

“You have divided us into teams?”

“Three teams in total. A line-up of fifteen people. The parties of adventurers were kept together.”

“From what I can see there is no other three-person party beside us?”

It's easy to see each party from the way the adventurers are gathering.

“I let you guys participate on my own, after all. Ah, that way the number of knights could be decreased.”

You seem to have been at least paid considerate in the party dividing.

“If you can pay that much consideration, you should have at least explained about us to the other knights. You didn't even tell them about us participating? I can feel their cold gazes since a while ago.”

“Oh! I forgot!”

This person.....

The knights who were listening to our conversation attentively looks at Wald-sama with indifferent expressions. I wonder if Wald-sama is always like this.

But, it should have been transmitted that the person who asked us to come was Wald-sama himself. I hope this would make conversing with the unit a bit easier, though.....

Allen and Elena who are sensitive towards the surroundings took the stares of others as "hostility," but they still thankfully didn't lash out, but clung closely to my legs instead.

I decided to lift the two up because it was hard walking like that. I lifted one, I lifted the second, and now they cling to my neck instead.

This will last for a while, huh.....

◇ ◇ ◇

We moved by the carriage to the Gaya Forest. Because the carriages can't be left behind outside the forest, knights who don't participate in the subjugation will take them back.

We will arrive in four to five hours.

I was able to exchange a few words with the knights in the carriage. I'm glad their attitude softened a bit.

Because I was "Forced by Wald-sama", they had a sympathizing atmosphere around them, though. Apparently, Wald-sama regularly stirs up his surroundings.

The atmosphere in the carriage loosened and we arrived at the place of destination in peace.

Alright! The preparations are complete. From here, you will move according to your party's route towards the camping point."

This subjugation expedition is planned to last for five days. First, the three parties will move through the forest separately.

The party we are in has 10 Knights including Wald-sama. Also, 4 men partyDragon Breathcontaining an A-Rank adventurer Rudolph-san. 17 people in total.

Without delay, I follow Wald-sama's team while holding hands with Allen and Elena.

After walking in the forest for a while.

"There~"

"Coming."

It seems that Allen and Elena sensed a monster. They point to the left with their fingers while pulling the hem of my clothes.

"Thank you. Wald-sama, a monster is coming from the left side."

I immediately report to the captain of this team, Wald-sama.

"N, from left? ——... Takumi, nothing's there."

"There's still some distance. But, you should see it soon. What to do in a situation like this? Everyone takes care of it?"

The extent of Allen's and Elena's detection is vast. Therefore, we have spare time to prepare to confront the monster.

"Gilm, can you detect it?"

"Dragon Breath" leader, A-Rank Rudolph-san immediately checks with his party member.

Rudolph-san has a dignified, well-built stature, and he's carrying a spear with an ax-like blade attached..... a 38 years old man carrying a halberd. Indeed, a person emitting a "veteran" atmosphere.

The one he checks with is a C-Rank scout named Gilm-san. If I'm not mistaken, he possesses a detection skill. The other two are a B-Rank swordsman Zack-san and the only woman, C-Rank magician Iris-san.

"No, there's no reaction."

"Oioi, that true? Don't say such spew such nonsense to me."

"....."

It seems like Gilm-san's detection still didn't react.

The surroundings become noisy.

Hearing Gilm-san's results, Zack-san jeers back in doubt. But, Rudolph-san as if observing something looks at the children and me.

I have a "Detection" skill, but this uses me as a center to spread magical power and allows me to search for magical power other than mine. It uses quite the quantity of the user and is considerably different from presence detection.

Even though he has the same "Detection" like me, since the amount of magical power I have is overwhelmingly larger, I can search a wider area.

And although similar to "Detection", Allen and Elena have "Presence Detection". It's an ability which allows them to sense a malicious intent in a certain scope.

Although we have to activate the skill on our own, Allen and Elena are using the skill unconsciously.

And, the effective radius of Allen's and Elena's "Presence Detection" is vast. I checked this fact myself with my "Detection".

That's the reason, Gilm-san's detection hasn't reacted yet.

"Ah!"

"What's wrong?"

"There's a reaction. Incoming!"

It seems the monster finally appeared in his detection.

"What!?"

"Really?"

"Dragon Breath" members and knights simultaneously look towards us.

Nono, it's really the truth. It's not like I would say something irresponsible in a place like this.

Hey, what are you going to do about that? You shouldn't be paying attention here?

Immediately, a single Red Wolf enters the view. When it's seen, and everyone enters a ready for battle mode——

"Ah, oi!"

One of the knights points to a direction.

Ah, crap!

When I look to what he's pointing at, I see Allen and Elena charging at the Red Wolf.

When we were in the dungeon I told them "when you find a monster it's all right to defeat it", I remembered too late.

I forgot to tell Allen and Elena to behave.....

The two drew close to the Red Wolf immediately.

There, Allen quickly kicks the chin of the Red Wolf from below. The Red Wolf raised a bit because of that kick and this time Elena drives a dropkick on its head.

The Red Wolf crashed into the ground and stopped moving.

"....."

The knights and adventurers all have the same dumbfounded expression with their mouths agape.

## **Chapter 23**

The Usual Scene

""Defeated~!""

Allen and Elena return as if nothing has happened. While drawing the defeated Red Wolf by its forepaws behind them.....

They have completely mastered the dungeon's action of "picking up dropped items from defeated monsters."

However... I should stop you from dragging the Red Wolf's large body with your little bodies..... everyone got even more surprised, after all.....

"Ah, yeah. Good job~ Are you unhurt?"

"No."

"Is okay~"

First, let's pat the heads of the two who safely defeated the monster. It already became a habit. If I don't do that, the children will look up at me with anxiety.

"Ah~, also. This time, Oniichan and the others will fight the monsters, why don't Allen and Elena take a day-off?"

""? Understand~""

I tell them before I forget. There are 15 experienced adults, Allen and Elena shouldn't need to fight.

The two tilted their heads in puzzlement, but they seemed to understand. Like this, even if they find a monster, they won't recklessly charge at it.

"Oi! The hell was that just now!"

"No~... just as you saw?"

Even if you ask me what...

"Red Wolf is a C-Rank, you know!"

"Didn't you, Wald-sama assess the children as C-Rank adventurers yourself?"

"That was you! Did you want to make your opponents careless because he was facing children!?"

Eh!? Did you interpret it like that?

"..... Even if you thought so, I have told you about how I found these kids, right?"

"That talk about them being orphaned, right? What about it?"

..... Seriously?

Did he not notice anything.....

You, how could you want me to join in the request then?

"I told you I found these children malnourished in the Gaya Forest."

"I have heard that."

“!!”

Wald-sama looks like he doesn't understand yet, but the silver-haired, grayish blue-eyed, stereotypical “brains” like looking vice-captain Isaac Risner-sama realized it. He opens his eyes wide in surprise.

“..... By that, you mean “the children have originally lived in this forest”..... right?”

“Ah!!”

With Risner-sama's words, Wald-sama finally understood.

“That's right. Were they defeating the monsters, or were they running away from them? I don't know how they lived until now yet, but they have certainly survived in the forest for several days.”

“.....”

Everyone is at a loss for words.

Everyone knows the dreadfulness of this forest. For that reason, they can imagine just how harsh those several days Allen and Elena lived here must have been.

“Anyhow. These children were originally strong, so even if you ask me I won't be able to answer you.”

I said while patting the heads of Allen and Elena on both of my sides.

If I say it like that, there most likely won't be anyone who will ask further questions.

“Well then, here you go.”

To not linger about this topic anymore, I present the defeated Red Wolf to Wald-sama.

“Ah?”

“The Knights are collecting the defeated monsters, right?”

“Yes.....”

The defeated monsters are at once collected the Knights, then purchased later. A suitable price depending on the contribution will be paid separately from the request payment.

So I said, why do you still have such complicated expressions?

“..... You guys can keep that.”

“Is that alright?”

“Yes. If I include that in the check, I would feel guilty for stealing from the kids..... N? Takumi, do you have a magic bag? Should I lend you one?”

“No, it’s alright.”

I’m told that we can harvest this Red Wolf.

Because the wolf was completely defeated by Allen and Elena only, he would feel awkward to collect it.

Even though he doesn’t have to worry about it~ But, well if he says so, I will take it without any reservation.

“..... Infinite Storage? A space-time magic user...”

“Eh!?”

Rudolph-san points out when I collect the Red Wolf.

How did he know!?

I have made an unnatural reaction because of your sudden comment!

“The flow of magical power of magic bag and Infinite Storage is different. That thing on your waist is definitely a magic bag, but you have collected it elsewhere, right?”

“.....”

That surprised me. To think he would be able to distinguish the difference of magical flow between magic bag and Infinite Storage.....

“That’s amazing. To be able to perceive such a small difference in magical flow.”

“It’s only possible for people who excel at perceiving magical power.”

Proficiency of a skill, huh..... As expected of A-Rank. Indeed, not an ordinary person.

The others aside from Rudolph-san look surprised. I wasn’t planning on concealing it forever, but I was unexpectedly exposed early.

But, like this, I will be able to use it without holding back, so let’s not mind it?

The surveying of the forest has resumed.

And then, after a while——

““Ah!””

Allen and Elena suddenly run off and squat to a tree’s base.

N? Is there something? Ah, a medicinal plant.

““Here!””

What the two brought back is a Magic Spirit Grass.

□□□□

## Magic Spirit Grass

A medicinal plant growing in places with a strong magic element in the air.

A special condition is necessary in order to cultivate the demonic element. There is no success in its cultivation so far.

A useful medicinal plant mainly used for magic potions.

□□□□

"You remembered well~ However you see~....."

""Can't~?""

This is a medicinal plant which we gathered for a request once before. The two remembered it well.

But, we are working in a group right now, so I can't have them going out on their own.

It's not good. Normally I would.....

I glance over to Wald-sama. Then, Allen and Elena look at him too.

Then, once again.

""Can't~?""

They request with puppy eyes.

If it were me, I would get defeated instantly. How about Wald-sama.....?

"..... I don't mind if you follow without falling behind."

He closed his eyes for Allen and Elena.

Since listening to the talk about Allen and Elena a while ago, the other knights watch over the children with lukewarm expressions.

Allen and Elena sense that too, they are able to give simple answers.

We have become quite well-known, but that may have been good.

Yeah, all turned out good..... I think?

"Don't go too far."

""Ye~s""

Allen and Elena who received permission start running here and there energetically. They collect medicinal plants and fruits one by one.

But, you see, I didn't teach them about the medicinal plants in the vicinity? ..... Eh, did they see them before?

... Yes, when I met them in the Gaya Forest for the first time. I was indeed gathering various things at that time. But, I was collecting it alone, did they remember just from seeing me?

They remember well~

My body was inserted with knowledge and appraisal, so I had it easy, but these children really are talented~

"Oniicha~n."

"Get that~"

Allen and Elena seem to find something again and trot over to me. Then, they point their fingers at a big rock, trying to show me something.

When I look towards the direction they are pointing at, I see moss growing in the shade of rocks.

I see. This can't be gathered without gloves. These children even remember the proper gathering method.

■■■■■

Iwamizu Moss

A turquoise species of moss growing in humid, dark places. Especially in the shade of rocks.

Causes rash in contact with bare hands.

Medicine for an itch when mixed with several kinds of medicinal plants.

■■■■■

"What's that?"

"That's an Iwamizu Moss, isn't it? They are really smart children."

All members stop and look at the shade of the rock.

Most of the people tilt their heads in puzzlement, but Risner-sama seems to know of it. My brains-like impression of him wasn't wrong.

"This is a material mainly used for skin itch medicine. Captain, you were previously lamenting when an anti-itch medicine wasn't being sold, weren't you? It's used for that. The reason that medicine isn't sold that much anymore is because the Iwamizu Moss's acquisition has recently decreased."

"Mainly used for skin itch medicine" Risner-sama makes it sound good, but..... in other words, it's that. Medicine for athlete's foot.

Wald-sama... you have an athlete's foot, don't you.....

Are? Why are so many people staring at the moss? You guys too!?

“Seriously!? Oshi! Let’s gather it all!”

“Captain, you can’t!”

“Wald-sama, you can’t!”

Wald-sama who really wants an itch medicine quickly moved towards the moss.  
Both Risner-sama and I stop him in panic.

“Captain, if you touch it bare handed you will get rash. Please, think a bit about why those children didn’t gather it themselves but called Takumi-san instead! Even though I told you to ‘Stop working by instinct’ so many times! Besides——”

Risner-sama started his lecturing. The other knights look like this is a normal occurrence. Being a vice-captain to a captain who moves on instincts seems tough.

While the lecturing is going on, I put on leather gloves, shave off the moss clinging to the rock with a knife and collect it.

However, even when I was done with the collecting, the lecturing time didn’t come to an end yet.

Is it still going to continue?

Let’s confirm with the other knights.

“When will this finish?”

“It won’t end for another hour.”

..... Another hour? No~ I can’t wait that long.....

Can’t be helped.....

“Let’s release the ultimate weapon...”

“The ultimate weapon... is it?”

“Right. Allen, Elena. Come here——”

I whisper to their ears and send them out towards Risner-sama.

“N?”

The two approach Risner-sama and pull on the hem of his clothes. Risner-sama noticed it and stopped his lecturing.

“What’s the matter?”

“Here.”

“For you.”

Allen and Elena hand Risner-sama the gathered Iwamizu Moss.

“You are giving me this?”

Risner-sama who crouched down checks the contents of the bag and confirms with Allen and Elena.

“Yea.”

“For you~”

“Thank you very much.”

“”Yea!””

They were able to end the lecturing time safely.

Allen, Elena. You did well!

## **Chapter 24**

Phantom Bread

“Allen, Elena. Come! It’s time for a break.”

“”Ye~s””

I call over the two children who are running all over the place, picking fruits and medicinal plants, and use□Washing□on them.

“What would you like for a snack?”

Because I got permission from Wald-sama, the two have a snack break while walking.

Allen and Elena who move the same as the adults, eat half of what the adults eat. It can’t be helped because they have small stomachs. However, that would prevent them from receiving enough nutrition, so I often give them snacks on the move.

“”Cream!””

The request of the two seems to be a Cream bread.

“Here. Eat while paying attention so you don’t trip.”

“”Ye~s.””

The two bit into the bread immediately after I hand it over to them. Wald-sama who saw that suddenly shouts.

“Oi! Is that Gold Wheat’s Shop’s phantom bread!?”

“What’s with that.....□

Phantom bread? Cream bread?

"Sold on days without a fixed date, moreover, there's a limit of 20 breads a day, therefore it's called 'Phantom bread'!"

Oh, seems like Road-san started selling Cream bread.

◆◆◆

It was a few days after arriving at the town of Shirin.

"Excuse me."

"Ye~s."

When the sun was setting, I visited a bakery called "Gold Wheat's Shop".

The goods weren't displayed anymore, it was the closing time.

When I entered the shop and called the salesclerk, a woman immediately came from inside the shop.

"I'm sorry, it's time for the shop to close today."

The woman was apologetic.

"Is it possible to order bread here?"

First of all, I asked what I came to ask.

"Do you mean you need a certain quantity prepared?"

"No, there's bread I want you to make."

The bread eaten in Aetherdia is simple. The sizes are different by the shop, but all of them are just a circular bread.

Table roll—a small-sized bread used as a garnish for meals.

If a Pullman loaf is not being sold here, things like Kashi-pan or Chouri-pan won't sell anywhere.

But, there are more or fewer varieties of bread.

Containing albumen mixed with wheat flour—a bread made with whole wheat flour, Cereal bread.

Bread made from refined white wheat flour, White bread.

A rye flour—a bread made from rye, Brown bread.

Although the white bread is delicious and fluffy, it's wasteful not to develop it further.

I thought. If it's not here, why not just create it?

So I came to "Gold Wheat's Shop".

"You want to make? Is it something different from what's being sold?"

"Yes, that's right."

"Umm..... the bread is made by the father so... I will get him."

"Alright."

The woman is apparently a daughter of the shopkeeper.

She went back to the kitchen and called over the shopkeeper.

"Is it you? The one wanting to make bread."

Immediately, a solidly built man, with a typical "Shop uncle" appearance came out.

"What do you want to make?"

"Umm, it's this, but..."

I take out a custard cream and Ranka fruit jam I made myself.

"N..... a jam? I don't know this one..."

"This is called custard cream. I want to put this inside bread and bake it."

"Put inside, you say?"

"Is that not possible?"

"It's not like it's not possible, but. I have never made something like that before..."

"In that case——"

I visited "Gold Wheat's Shop" the next day in the afternoon again and demonstrated the shopkeeper, Road-san how to make it.

I received a pre-made white bread dough from Road-san and I immediately worked on the filling.

First, I taught Road-san how to wrap the jam and custard cream in the dough properly. As expected of a baker, he quickly got hold of it.

The custard cream and jam I prepared has been all used up in no time. On the other hand, there was quite a lot of the dough remaining.

He wanted to bake the remaining dough normally, but I asked if I can take it over as I was thinking about using it for different bread.

Road-san who showed interest in the Cream bread and Jam buns readily approved.

Having said that, something suddenly came on my mind.....

I retrieved Raisins from the Infinite Storage I washed them in hot water and lightly sprinkled with rum. Well, I intended to make a basic Raisin bread. I only knead it into the dough.

After all, there is also no store which sells those.

What can I make next..... ah, that's right! There was that!

What I retrieved next is a cinnamon stick. I found and bought this while walking around a grocery store.

That and sugar. Sugar is not from a grocery store, but it was something I received from Syl. I mix it with cinnamon to create a cinnamon sugar.

I spread the dough into a 30cm rectangle and paint the surface with melted butter, sprinkle it over with the cinnamon sugar and coil it around in a cylinder shape.

I cut it into 3~4cm long sections and bake it. All that's left is to sprinkle it over with a dissolved sugar once it's baked?

I surprisingly quite love them~ Cinnamon rolls.

Now, Road-san only needs to bake them properly.

After all the bread was baked, it was time for sampling.

"So good!"

I receive praises from Road-san.

""Yummy~""

Allen and Elena who observed me the whole time finally bit into the samples which they really liked. Although they were only samples, but because there were four kinds of bread, they filled their mouths plentifully.

A~ah, if they eat so much, they won't be able to eat dinner later~

And then, the bread I made (strictly speaking, they weren't my ideas) became the talk of "Gold Wheat's Shop".

Of course, I have approved of it. If it sells, I will be now able to buy it from a shop. Because the custard cream tends to spoil, I had to explain its method of making, though carefully.

After that, Road-san did various trials and errors and put the products on sale.

◆◆◆

The rumors of "Gold Wheat's Shop" Jam bun, Raisin bread, Cinnamon roll being first-class bread from the town of Shirin spread around.

The rival bakeries now started selling them too.

Well, but no matter what happens, their rivals won't be able to reproduce it properly. But still, there are one or two shops that are ahead of [Gold Wheat's Shop].

But, the Cream bread made with custard cream is a specialty of "Gold Wheat's Shop". They won't allow its ingredients to be known to anyone.

The culture of "Bread, the main protagonist" was born.....

... I honestly didn't know. When did it become like that.....

I didn't think that the Cream bread would become so famous it would be called "Phantom bread".....

"Moreover, there's a talk it sells out a few minutes after selling. Takumi, you bought it!"

"No, this is something that was personally made for me."

"Haa!? What's that! They shouldn't be accepting orders for that!"

I did order anything from Road-san.

Rather, why is Wald-sama so knowledgeable about this? Did he perhaps not eaten it yet?

The Knights including Wald-sama are looking envious..... The adventurers of "Dragon Breath" who are not from Shirin didn't seem to know of it, but they are now greatly interested...

"Kiddos, share a bit with me"

""No~!!""

Please don't go taking food from children!!

Ah~ my Cream bread inventory..... ah, there's enough for all people here.

Can't be helped~

"Only this one time~"

"Seriously!? Alright!"

When I take out the Cream bread, everyone gathers.

Calm down a bit! This is "Gaya Forest" be a little careful of the surroundings!

"My~ that was good!"

Everyone who ate the Cream bread liked it. There seems to be an unexpectedly large amount of people who like sweets.

However, in this world, the most common sweet thing is jam.

There also seems to be cookies, but they are something that only those with a bit more money can afford.

Honey and starch syrup appear to be relatively cheap, but it can only be eaten like that or mixed in a tea.

No wonder I couldn't find sweets for Allen and Elena in the town.

I have no choice, but to make the sweets myself from now on.

## Chapter 25

Abnormality

"Buhiiiiii~"

After the unexpected break, a group consisting of six Orcs and one High Orc has appeared after we resumed the survey.

Knights in pairs take on the Orcs, while the "Dragon Breath" party engages the High Orc.

And I'm also responsible for taking care of one Orc.

Although Allen and Elena are here, I confront the Orc alone.

Seeing that, Rudolph-san and Gilm-san offered help, but I of course declined.

There's only one opponent, after all. There are no problems.

"Wind Cutter."

I quickly cut its head off, case closed!

Orc has a large body with great power, but its movements are slow so it's easy to defeat. All you have to do is aim and shoot. A big body means a big target.

Easy peasy!

"Haa~!"

As for the Knights, one person attracts the Orc's attention and the other person strikes at it.

They keep repeating it wounding it little by little and then give it a fatal wound. It's a very steady way of fighting.

I just quietly watch, ready for a follow-up anytime.

However..... Their way of fighting is completely opposite of me who can only fight with brute strength.

It's a way of fighting that I, who lived 20 years without a single fight can't do.

In the first place, I didn't do any other exercises back on Earth than running (I wasn't fast by any means). I was not athletic at all.

Un, I was a klutz. What a sad thing.....

In ball games, I was catching the balls with my face~ It's all old memories now.

However, I can now run fast because of the present body, my physical ability can't be compared to my previous one!

Iya~ moving freely is splendid! I could avoid any ball now!

However, even if my physical ability increased, my martial experience is zero, so I may not be able to provide much support.....

I know I can't help because I never had any interest in things like these, leaving me with limited knowledge.

Allen' and Elena's fighting style is strong, should I learn a bit from them? Dojo... is there a place like that somewhere~

There should be a place that teaches basics. Let's look for one next time.

"Oriyaa~!"

"Buhiiii~"

Ah, looks like Wald-sama and others defeat all of the Orcs. There don't seem to be any injuries.

"Haaa!"

"Buhiiiiii~!"

Oh, Rudolph-san's halberd beheaded the High Orc.

With the High Orc's cry of agony, Rudolph-san shouts not losing to the Orc.

"Whoa!"

When all Orcs are defeated, Wald-sama looks at me with a stern expression. Then he suddenly asks while grabbing my head.

"Takumi!!"

"Yes!?"

"To instakill an Orc... just who are you!"

Even if you ask me that.

I understand that an experienced Knight will have troubles against Orc in a one on one fight, but I think that anyone with some skill in magic can behead such slow monster easily?

Moreover, others also didn't take that much time to deal with their opponents.

Why are you grabbing my head?

""Uu~"

"Allen, Elena. It's all right. Wald-sama how about releasing your hand? The two are wary of you."

I'm being bullied? The two probably thought so and let out cute growling noises.

Hearing my words, Wald-sama notices Allen and Elena clinging to my sides while glaring at him. He awkwardly releases his hand.

"Allen, Elena. Look, I'm okay, calm down please~"

For now, I pat the two U~ u~ growling kids' heads.

"To have that done to him and be alright!"

"Perhaps captain wasn't serious enough?"

"No, that was serious. I can tell. That was a considerable amount of power."

"... Inhuman."

"Right. He's not normal."

Because I was held with all his strength, I felt pain. However, I have a physical attack resistance. Moreover, it's MAX'ed!

Therefore, although I felt only a little pain, an average person would be finished. The Knight start whispering among themselves after witnessing me not showing any reaction to Wald-sama's attack.

Hey, you guys..... I can hear you.

They are certainly not wrong. I'm God's retainer "Human?". You are not wrong, but..... that's somewhat rude.

"Wald-sama and others also didn't take much time to deal with their opponents."

"We were in pairs! Moreover, we can't do something like instakilling it! You are an F-Rank fraud!"

"No, I have raised by one rank, so I'm an E-Rank now."

Adventurers normally start at F-Rank, right? Then, they steadily improve their rank.

I'm not a fraud!

"Doesn't change the fact it's stra~nge!."

So cruel.....

"Rudolph-dono! I will contact Guild Master too, but once we return, please tell Guild Master to raise this fellow's rank immediately!"

"Right. I will definitely talk to him."

"....."

Oh my?

"With a high ranker's recommendation, the Guild Master can raise one rank to some extent."

Rudolph-san who saw my bewilderment explains.

Something like skipping grades? I see, so there was such a system.

As expected, I didn't know such information.

Probably, even though Syl knows basic information, he isn't aware of small details like this. It's not necessary for him, after all.

It wouldn't be bad to raise my rank, right? The extent of requests I could take will increase.

What procedures should be taken after returning to the town?

Well~ Rudolph-san said he would talk to the guild's top so I should probably just wait since they will be contacting me?

"First of all, let's clean up. Fuse, Cain. Rudolph-dono and others dismantle the High Orc. Collect as much meat as you need. Others take the Orcs."

People start dismantling on Wald-sama's orders.

I also collect the Orc's materials.

First, the magic stone.

Next, the testicles..... it's apparently an ingredient used for male-oriented stimulants. I will absolutely never drink it, but..... this seems to be quite high in demand.

High Orc's materials are the same as Orc's, magic stone and testicles. Also, it's skin is used for protective gear.

Also, both have an enormous amount of meat.

This is a problem. Several of 3~4 meters tall Orcs leave behind quite a lot of meat.

It's food. It would be normally brought back, but today is the first day of the expedition. If we secure it now, it will spoil before we could get back to the town.

Unfortunately, in a case like this, we can only secure enough for us to consume.

"All right, we are done. Then——"

And, the rest is burned, so they don't turn undead.

——Normally, they would be burned, but.....

"Wald-sama."

"Takumi, what's up?"

"Have you forgotten? With me, we can collect everything"

The meat won't spoil in my Infinite Storage.

"Ah!"

He seemed to forget because he's not familiar with it yet, but the time stops in space-time magic. It should be known that time stops inside the Infinite Storage.

Thus, we have decided to collect the rest of the Orc meat.

Because it would take a time to dismantle, I just stored everything inside Infinite Storage just like that.

"Nevertheless..... to think there would be a group so close to the town."

"This is unusual."

"What do you think, Rudolph-dono?"

It seems to be rare to encounter a group half a day distance of the town.

They are mostly seen alone.

Wald-sama and Risner-sama confirm the situation with Rudolph-san.

"Mm. I have a feeling that the atmosphere in the forest has been quieter than before....."

Rudolph-san's meaning isn't "it's calm", but "it's quiet before the storm".

"Captain, it might be better to investigate this carefully."

"Yea, I agree. Let's move with more care from now on."

We advance further to the forest while cautious.

## **Chapter 26**

Cooking Instructions

When the sun begins to go down, we arrived at the camping point.

I wanted to prepare a meal, but it seems the Knights are in charge of meals.

The ones in charge are the knights Cain-san and Heinz-san.

It appears that the menu is High Orc meat skewer, soup, and hard bread.

Cain-san pours water into a large pot and puts a small number of dehydrated vegetables inside. Soup?

Heinz-san is preparing the skewers. He's cutting the High Orc meat into chunks and stabbing it on skewers..... Fist-sized chunks of meat?

..... N?

"Please, wait a moment!"

"Takumi-san, what's the matter?"

I hesitated to interfere, but..... I can't overlook this!

I absolutely feel wrong about this.....

"I just want to confirm, but..... are you going to put something else in this soup? after boiling it?"

"No, I will just season it with salt afterward!"

"....."

Seriously.....

"Are you going to cook meat of that size?"

"Yes!"

"....."

.....  
Oh my..... is this normal? It feels like nothing is strange about this.....

Nono! Indeed, the meals in "Komadori Pavilion" had a salt-based taste. However, they were appropriately delicious.

This is not normal!

"First, the soup. Aren't you missing ingredients for the stock? It will only have a salty taste like this... Then, make the meat into a bit smaller pieces, if too little they will easily burn, if too big, they will be underdone."

The people here were saying that the cream bread was delicious. Which means that their palate isn't misaligned.

So for what reason are they overlooking this?

When I ask Wald-sama and the other knights——

"We are mostly people who can't cook, you see."

"Every time during the camp it's 'as long as we eat' feeling. Dried meat and hard bread are better than soup stock alone."

"It's because, in this unit, Cain and Heinz make the best meals."

Most of the knights are noblemen. It should be quite reasonable that they can't cook.

However, since they are nobles they should have refined palates..... they don't seem to mind.

They probably make a firm line during camping.

After that, I ask the Dragon Breath party——

"We also always eat dried meat and hard bread."

"Iris? No way, impossible. This fellow can't cook~mon."

"Rather, this fellow makes hazardous waste."

"..... I can live even without being able to cook!"

I got a similar answer.

Apparently, there is no decent cook.

No, but I'm sorry. I don't want to eat the meal Cain-san and Heinz-san are going to make.

Besides, I have to pay attention to Allen's and Elena's meals. Their malnourished bodies finally started approaching the standard.

Dried meat and hard bread are disagreeable, but I will definitely won't let them eat nearly salt water soup and underdone meat!

"Cain-san! Please, finely cut 3~4 pieces of meat and put them into the pot! Heinz-san, please cut all the chunks of meat into 1/4 sizes! I will return right away, so please do it in the meantime!"

I give instructions to Cain-san and Heinz-san without caring for my standing, leave the camping point and enter the forest to gather the necessary things.

Of course, Allen and Elena follow after me.

First, securing the ingredients!

It would be alright to use ingredients from the Infinite Storage, but I thought it would be better not to use it in front of the other teams.

Besides, the forest is a treasure house of ingredients. I can gather enough ingredients in a matter of several minutes without having to use the ingredients from Infinite Storage.

"I'm back!"

After returning with edible plants and mushrooms in both of my hands, I immediately start cooking.

"This is?"

"Ena grass and Blue Seed. Both are edible plants. And this is Rook mushroom and Petal mushroom. These are edible mushrooms."

"I have seen those at the market."

"That's right. All of them are common, after all."

I give names and explain about to plants I picked to Cain-san and other interested people.

All these plants and mushroom are commonly sold at the market. I thought they might accept the things they are familiar with easier. I choose the things to pick like that.

I have found some rare mushroom that doesn't appear at the market that much, but I have stopped myself from serving them something they are not familiar with while telling them "It's all right" to eat.

Ah, of course, I picked it and stored it inside the Infinite Storage.

"These grow almost anywhere, so it will be useful to remember them."

After adding the chopped meat, I washed and cut the plants, vegetables, and mushrooms and added them to the pot.

While the water in the pot is getting hot on the fire, I stick mouthful-sized meat onto skewers, lightly sprinkle them with salt, and put them near the fire.

Of course, I have used Cain-san and Heinz-san.

The two are helping without complaining. From a certain standpoint, it may seem like I'm selfishly butting in. Somehow, I'm sorry.....

I season the soup lastly after the veggies and mushrooms cook. Because the dried meat comes with salt, using just a little bit of salt is okay.

The mushrooms and dried meat in the soup leave a nice feeling to it.

I grill the meat carefully without exposing it to intense heat.

All right, it's finished!

"!!!!"

Everyone takes a mouthful of the completed dish and their movements stop.

Was it not palatable? I thought for a moment, but the next moment, everyone started vigorously stuffing their mouths.

"Oh!"

"Delicious!"

"Ngu!"

Seems like I was worried for nothing.

They continue quietly eating after that, and all of the soup and grilled meat disappeared.

"My~ I'm stuffed! That was delicious~!"

"I'm glad it suited your tastes."

Because it was a simple food that didn't take much effort to make, I didn't think they would be so pleased with it. If they are pleased like this, it was worthwhile cooking it.

"Well~ Takumi is talented. I can't think that he just came of age."

"..... Haah?"

Wald-sama suddenly says something strange.

What did he just say? Did he just say "came of age"?

It means becoming an adult in Japanese. However, on Aetherdia, one becomes an adult at 15 years of age, you know?

Is this that..... I look five years younger?

"..... I don't know how old you think I am, but I'm 20, you know?"

"Eh!?"

Ueh!? Everyone!? Everyone here is surprised?

"Seriously!? I thought you would be 16-17 at most."

"....."

Was I only seen as someone who just came of age? So it's true that the faces of Japanese people look young..... I have realized it for the first time.

A silly talk continued after that.

I had to tsukkomi a few times as the talk flowed, but it went well.

When it became dark, the night watch has been selected.

There will be three shifts, but I was told I don't need to be on duty today, so I gratefully decided to sleep.

"Here, Allen, Elena."

I put the blanket over Allen and Elena, and they cuddle to my sides as always.

"Do you always sleep like that?"

"Just when sleeping outside. They don't seem to like sleeping on the cold ground."

"Fuun~"

I have tried spreading the blanket on the ground once before, but the two opposed by shaking their heads.

It seems like they recall the time before meeting me..... their environment when they were slaves. They don't appear to remember much, but they remember this.

In addition, the two seem to have taken a liking to sleep like this after the first time.

"Then, I will gratefully accept your offer and sleep."

"Ou. Have a good sleep."

Suu~ Suu~ the two have already fallen asleep. After gently patting their heads, I closed my eyelids.

The next day when I woke up, everyone was staring at me with expectations to make breakfast.

Of course, I made it.....

I mean, I might as well make something delicious.

## **Chapter 27**

Rescue

"Captain! That!"

The second day of the expedition advanced smoothly. We are a little ahead of schedule today as all three teams are going to gather at one camping point.

At that time, an accident has happened.

One of the knights all of sudden loudly shouts and points towards a direction.

N? A red light is visible.

"It's a flare! We are rushing to join up!"

Wald-sama says quickly changes the direction. Others follow him.

Only I follow without knowing what's going on.

By flare they mean the red light, right? Does it have any meaning?

"What is that?"

"It's light from an emergency magic tool. We use it when encountering an unmanageable monster, when in need of assistance. One of the teams must be in trouble."

There seem to be various colors with different meanings, the red means that help is requested, and on the other hand, blue is used when there's no need for help.

There also seem to be smoke flare types, but light flare types are used in places like Gaya Forest where the view is obstructed.

Risner-sama quickly explained while speedily advancing towards the flare.

The reason we do not run at full speed is that it's highly possible that we will have to fight before getting to the destination. We wouldn't be of any help if we got exhausted before joining up.

Everyone moves at a quick pace while suppressing the feelings of impatience.

"It would be better to hurry up?"

"Yes, that's right."

"Then, I will go ahead. Allen and Elena——"

""Going~""

It's an emergency with human lives on the line. I shouldn't be stingy.

Because I can use Wind Magic to accelerate, I will use that and go ahead.

Therefore, I have thought to let Allen and Elena stay with Wald-sama and others——but they spoke faster than me.

It seems impossible to persuade them now, so I decided to take them along. We shouldn't be wasting any more time.

"Wind, gather around me and form a gale. Accel."

I chant with Allen and Elena in my arms. It looked like Wald-sama was saying something, but I ignored it, enveloped my body in wind's power, and started running.

Several minutes later, we arrived at the place of destination.

"Is that it!"

People opposing monsters with their swords appeared in my sight.

I jumped up with the momentum and landed on a branch where I overlooked the situation from.

The monster is Red Wolf's higher variety, B-Rank Bloody Wolf. Moreover, it's a whole pack.

Bloody Wolf is a wolf with a fur red as blood. Confirming visually..... there are 7 in total?

The path of retreat has been cut off. Furthermore, there several people on their knees.

Wounded? They don't seem to be severely wounded, but it will get dangerous if it continues.

"Allen, Elena. I will reduce the numbers first by bit, will you help me with the clean up?"

""Yea!""

"Thank you."

""Ye~s.""

The situation is worse than I thought. It feels like they are "Barely holding their ground" and won't be able to hold any longer.

I wanted to help alone, but it doesn't look I will be able to rescue them all on my own, so I asked Allen and Elena for assistance.

"Air Shot."

First, I aim at the Bloody Wolves from the top of the branch and shoot seven air bullets.

——Doon.

"Gyaun!"

"Wha! What!?"

The air bullets hit. A cloud of dust rises together with the cries of Bloody Wolves and surprised voices.

I immediately blow off the cloud of dust with the wind to clear the visibility.

Apparently, the Air Shot hit only four targets. Moreover, the air bullets only damaged them, I wasn't able to kill them off.

I held back on my magical power so I wouldn't involve the people nearby, but it seems that the magical power wasn't enough to kill the wolves.

I retrieve a Water Katana from the Infinite Storage. This is something I received from Water God's retainers.

I pull the blade from its blue scabbard while jumping off the branch and kill one of the injured Bloody Wolves. The Blood Wolf cries its last "Gyaun!" and falls down.

I immediately pull the sword from the dead Bloody Wolf and instantly behead another one. With this, two Bloody Wolves have died.

——Thud!

Following me, Allen and Elena jump down and land on two Bloody Wolves, killing them right away.

The squashed Bloody Wolves sunk into the ground, but that's a trifling matter, right?

Now then, this leaves three more Bloody Wolves.

Allen and Elena face a nearby Bloody Wolf together.

"Be careful, okay?"

""Ye~s!"

An energetic reply.

I think it will be all right, but no matter what I'm worried about the two children.

"Y, you guys certainly are... the people Wald brought along....."

"Yes. We have come to back you up."

One of the knights approaches and asks me while supporting his body with a sword. This is the team's captain if I'm not mistaken.

I look at the people that were attacked.

Everyone has some kind of a wound, but including the people that are on their knees without being able to move, there doesn't seem to be anyone with life threatening injury.

"First of all, we will tidy this up. Please, gather the people that can't move in one place in the meantime."

"O, oi!"

After saying that, I turn around and confront the two growling Bloody Wolves.

I think I have heard a disapproving voice, but I disregarded it, and set up with the Water Katana in my right hand, and magic ready to be shot in my left hand.

"Air Shot."

First, I face one of the wolves and shoot an Air Shot at it to keep it in check and assault the other.

I evade the Bloody Wolf that attacks me from the back. The Bloody Wolf I kept in check with Air Shot immediately cut the distance between us.

I twist my body to evade the other charging Bloody Wolf and swing my katana at it, but it was able to dodge.

Strong! As expected of B-Rank monster.

Bringing the four down with a surprise attack might have been a big win.

While glaring at the two Bloody Wolves, I take a glance at Allen and Elena. They are skillfully poking the wolf down.

It somehow looks like they are playing. No, judging from their happy expressions, they really are playing.

But well~ They seem to be okay at the moment.

When I return my sight at the two Bloody Wolves, they rush at me as if they were waiting for this timing.

Now then, what should I do?

I could easily defeat them with some extra magical power, but I would damage both the wolves and surroundings too much. That is no good, right?

The fur of Bloody Wolf is selling for a high price. They appear to be used to make coats for noble ladies.

If I'm thinking like that, could it be that I got used to an adventurer lifestyle?

N~ I don't want to damage the fur, after all~ It's a pity, but I don't want to waste much time.

"Air Shot."

First, I shot several air bullets at the same time.

——Bang!

They hit the ground here and there, causing a cloud of dust whirl up. This time, I charge right inside the bad visibility cloud.

"Ha!"

I swing down the katana at the sign of presence.

"Gyaun!"

A sense of feedback.

I make sure once the cloud of dust clears up. I see a wolf head at my feet.

Yeah. I was able to defeat it. Moreover, not the body, but its neck. I did better than I expected.

The other Bloody Wolf groans at the loss of its companion.

A one on one charge?

I was about to strike that fellow down with my sword.

But, at that time——

"Gyaun!"

Something came crashing into the side of the Bloody Wolf.

"..... Huh?"

The thing that crashed into the Bloody Wolf is! Another Bloody Wolf.

When I look at the direction the Bloody Wolf flew from, Allen and Elena were there.

Their flying kicks sent it to the crash course.

The flying Bloody Wolf is already dead, but the one it crashed into is still alive, so I finished it first by slashing its neck.

"Oi! You alright!?"

Wald-sama and others arrived right at this moment.

### **Idle Talk 3**

Outrageous Siblings

I'm Isaac Risner.

I'm the vice-captain of Shirin's branch's second Knight unit.

The captain I work under is Grunwald Ruven, an honest man who can't stay idle for a minute. He's a musclebrain who charges at everything without thinking.

I should be an assistant of the captain, but it always ends up with me doing all the paperwork.

"Captain!"

"What? Why are you so flustered."

While working in the office, I see a figure of a person walking to the town gates from Gaya Forest, so I report while flustered.

No person passed this gate leading to the Gaya Forest in the last several days.

All gates except this west gate are usually used to get out of the town. If you miss the highway and come to this gate, you would be coming from northwest or southwest.

However, the figure I see is coming from the west. It's coming straight from the Gaya Forest.

There are occasionally some reckless people who go to the Gaya Forest, but they would be someone coming from the town, we would be able to confirm their identities.

"Isaac, I will go take a look."

"I understand. Please, return properly. If not, you won't be sleeping tonight."

"..... I know."

He was already restless, he wanted to escape from the work.

I approve, allowing him to take a breather from work.

Captain decided to go to the west gate and wait for the person in question.

After a while, Captain returned back to the office.

"Captain, what happened?"

"He apparently went out to gather some medicinal plants. Moreover, he even took two children with him."

"... Children, is it?"

"Yes. Two little ones were with him."

"....."

Just a naive youth. Is what I'd like to think, but that youth apparently successfully returned from Gaya Forest with medicinal plants.

If it's like that, he must have a considerable ability.

Unfortunately, he just arrived here from a village and didn't belong to any organizations or guilds so we couldn't identify him.

Well, it turns out like that when you don't have identification papers.

Because I didn't have that much interest at that time, I ended up forgetting about that youth.

However, Captain apparently had another encounter with that youth and the children.

And because he had an interest in that youth, he requested him to join the subjugation expedition in Gaya Forest.

I found out later that day.

Really, Captain is always so selfish..... letting children participate in a request with the overbearing adventurers, how foolish!

Thinking about the place we are going, I begin to worry.

Nevertheless, because an official request can't be turned down, they ended up participating.

"Ah, oi!"

It was after entering the forest for a while.

Cain, one of my subordinates points his finger and shouts in panic.

When I look towards the direction... aren't those children charging at a Red Wolf?

Hey, wait a second, please! Why are you running that way!?

Haa!? The boy kicked the Red Wolf from below, a splendid kick.

Eeeeh!? Why is the Red Wolf's body lifting up!? It's a kick of a child, you know?

Even though the monster is on the smaller size, it's still twice as large as the children?

This time, the girl dropkicks the Red Wolf from above!?

The Red Wolf has been blown off!!

.....

What has just happened? Didn't they just easily defeat a C-Rank monster?

Those small children? I feel like I have just seen something outrageous.

""Defeated~!""

"Ah, yes. Good job~ Are you unhurt?"

"Yea."

"Ok~ay."

The two children return back all smiles while dragging the Red Wolf behind them. Looking at the situation, this seems to be the usual occurrence.

I'm glad they are not hurt, but..... it was probably not just me who felt helpless just a while ago.

"Ah~, also. This time, Oniichan and the others will fight the monsters, why don't Allen and Elena take a day-off?"

""? Understand~""

That's right. That will save us the trouble.

No matter what, having small children fight with us here, we would be ashamed us the Knights.

Ah, Captain has approached Takumi-san all of sudden. He's probably curious why they are so strong.

He knew they were as strong as C-Rank adventurers? It's hard to believe, but Captain... you had such information.....

"I told you I found these children malnourished in the Gaya Forest."

"I have heard that."

Please wait a moment.

I'm surprised that you went to the Gaya Forest before, but you have found them in there malnourished?

If they were thin at the time you have found them..... doesn't that mean they couldn't eat properly for an extended period of time?

“..... By that, you mean “the children have originally lived in this forest”..... right?

□

“Ah!!”

“That’s right. Were they defeating the monsters, or were they running away from them? I don’t know how they lived until now yet, but they have certainly survived in the forest for several days.”

“.....”

If children enter this forest, they will instantly become a monster feed.

Yet they survived. Isn’t that outrageous? It’s an unbelievable thing.

Furthermore, now Takumi-san used the rare space-time magic this time.....

When I glanced at Captain he was startled too, so he probably didn’t know.

The cause is because Captain didn’t inform us before the appointed day, but it’s painful for me to not being able to investigate what kind of person he really is.

Even though I say that, it’s normal not to tell about your abilities to other people, and because he didn’t stay in Shirin for too long, I don’t know how much I would be able to find out.

Well~ still, I would be at least to investigate his reputation.

Ah..... why wasn’t I more interested when he entered the town for the first time, It’s late, but I regret.

After that, it was consecutive surprises.

First, I was surprised by the children’s movements and endurance. They were running here and there from the start and didn’t fall behind us who were steadily advancing.

Normal children would hand their hands full by trying to keep up..... no, they wouldn’t be able to keep up?

Moreover, their gathering ability and knowledge are magnificent.

Magical Power Grass, Demon Grass, Shui weed, Bellana..... they bring back plant and fruit one after another.

Not only the plant types, but they also seem to know their characteristics well, they never touched plants they shouldn’t be touching.

In comparison our Captain!!

“Captain, if you touch it bare handed you will get rash. Please, think a bit about why those children didn’t gather it themselves but called Takumi-san instead! Even though I told you to□Stop working by instinct□so many times! Besides, why do kids know, but a proper adult like you don’t!! ——(Omitted)—— A person like you, every single time..... please learn a little bit!□

Use your brain a little!

I suddenly felt pulling while preaching Captain

"N?"

When I look at what's pulling me, aren't those the children pulling on my coat?

"What's the matter?"

"Here."

"For you."

The children present me something in a bag.

I receive the bag after crouching down to match the children's eyes. Isn't this a bag full of Iwamizu Moss?

Iwamizu Moss has been recently hard to obtain. Because of that, the inventory of the medicine it's used for (A wonder drug for itching feet) has been depleted.

Moreover, this medicine is used daily by 1/3 of the Knights (I don't use it) so not having it is a severe matter.

With this much, we should have enough for the whole division. If they are giving it to me, I will gratefully receive it.

"You are giving me this?"

"Yea."

"For you~"

"Thank you very much."

""Yeah!""

I'm not fond that much of children, but..... they are cute, aren't they?

I unconsciously ended up patting their heads after seeing their shy smiles.

Other various facts came to light. Like the most recent boom of Shirin, the new shaped bread was Takumi-san's idea..... like Takumi-san can instakill an Orc.....

Wasn't I surprised enough in a day to cover several months?

Honestly, I'm exhausted from being surprised. And yet, there are still four more days of the expedition to go. Can I hold until the end.....

The next day was so calm it was creepy.

We did not encounter a monster for more than a half day.

Right at that moment, I intended to end the investigation for today——

"It's a flare! We are rushing to join up!"

An emergency flare has been used. One of the two other teams is in need of help.

We have to hurry!

"What is that?"

"It's light from an emergency magic tool. We use it when encountering an unmanageable monster, when in need of assistance. One of the teams must be in trouble."

A magic tool used to call help. This is not used only by the Knights, but also by adventurers. It appears that Takumi-san doesn't know about it.

Which reminds me, he just joined the guild, right? Because of his strength, I completely forgot about him being a newcomer.

I lightly explain while on the way to the destination while being admired.

So he's no different from a newcomer in this regard.....

"It would be better to hurry up?"

"Yes, that's right."

He confirms with Captain, but what are you planning to do?

"Then, we will go ahead."

"Yes?"

"Wind, gather around me and form a gale. Accel."

Takumi-san lifts the children up in his arms and starts chanting.

Then, a frightening amount of wind bursts out, and he speeds ahead at incredible speed.

"Haa!? What's with that speed!"

"..... Wind, magic..... is it?"

..... That should be intermediate speed spell if I'm not mistaken.

That should be it, but the speed is way above that..... You shouldn't be able to run this fast normally.

He really is an out of the standard person.....

"It's weird, right!?"

"Yes, it's a considerable difference compared to other people."

"..... That fellow is really bullshitting me."

"It seems like that. If it's Takumi-san, he will probably do something about it, but let's also hurry up."

"..... Right."

The other team is in a predicament as they used a flare.

Even if he is not able to solve it by himself, he should be able to gain us time to arrive.

I'm leaving it to you, Takumi-san.

#### **Idle Talk 4**

What Are They?

I'm Randy. 20 years old.

D-Rank adventurer, and a member of B-Rank party "Black Twin Sword".

This time, we have come to the town of Shirin because of a subjugation request from the Knights.

It's my first time, but Gray-san and others received this request once before.

Normally, I wouldn't be able to enter Gaya Forest with my strength. Therefore, I was told to wait in Shirin.

However, I hate being left behind!

Although I'm not equal in ability to Gray-san and others, I will be able to rank up to C-Rank soon. Being a C-Rank at my age is quite fast.

Gray-san broke under my obstinate attitude. I had to promise that I will absolutely obey every order.

Of course, I agreed. We can take the request together like this!

On the day of the request.

Just before the departure, a man 3-4 years younger than me with two children arrived at the meeting place.

"Good morning, Wald-sama."

The man with the children went for greetings with the Captain of the expedition.

Wha! Are those guys perhaps also going to the Gaya Forest!?

Is that guy an idiot? Is he planning to go for a picnic?

It seems I wasn't the only one thinking that.

Gray-san probably thought so too even the Knights were looking at them with strict gazes.

However, I heard that Captain forcibly selected them to participate.

After that, the Knights' attitudes softened. That Captain is well-respected, so I feel like it can't be helped since he decided on that.

But, is he actually taking them along? They will become a burden, right?

Well, they seem to be in a different team than us, so I don't have to mind it.

Do your best not to die.

We have begun the Gaya Forest investigation.

We have encountered a Giant Boar and an Orc on the first day. However, Gray-san and the Knights defeated them without any difficulties.

I was also slightly helpful!

However, the state of the forest is apparently strange.

Usually, we should encounter a little more monsters. Moreover, the forest itself is strangely quiet.

I myself don't understand, but Gray-san says so, so it must be true.

The second day wasn't different from the first.

"Bl, Bloody Wolf!!"

Is what I thought, but my thoughts abruptly collapsed.

"A pack in a place like this!? Randy! You concentrate on defending yourself!"

"Y, yes!"

B-Rank monster. We are assaulted by a pack of Bloody Wolves.

It's a troublesome opponent when alone, yet it's a whole pack. 1, 2, 3..... 7 in total.

On the other hand, we the five members of "Black Twin Sword" and 12 Knights of Shirin.

We need half of our men to defeat one of the Bloody Wolves.

We are at an overwhelming disadvantage.

One of the Knights immediately releases a red flare. It's to call for help.

Although all of the teams have the same camping point today, it's unknown how far they are from us.

If we can't hold out until they come, we won't have a tomorrow.

We are forced into a defensive fight by the charging wolves.

With no chance to counterattack, we are slowly driven to a corner. I deflect the claws with the sword, but because I had not enough strength, my posture collapsed.

“Randy! Dodge!”

“Kuh!!”

I roll on the ground at once after hearing Gray-san’s voice, and successfully avoid the Bloody Wolf, but its claws grazed my arm.

“.....”

“Randy, you alright?”

“Somehow.....”

Although I answered like that, my legs don’t move because of the fatigue.

I have to stand up! Is what I think, but my body doesn’t listen to me.

Damn it! At this rate!!

When I was about to resign to die——

——Thud.

“Wha! What!?”

!!!!?

What did just happen!?

A sudden explosion and windstorm. Furthermore, there was bad visibility because of a cloud of dust.

However, that cloud of dust immediately disappears.

When my visibility becomes clear, I see few of the Bloody Wolves staggering.

“Gyaun!”

Together with Bloody Wolf’s cry, a man stuck a sword into its back.

The man pulls up the sword from the wolf’s back and mows down another Bloody Wolf in the striking distance.

It was killed in a single blow.

It’s a person I recognize.

It’s him! The man who brought the children.

He should be with a different team. Does that mean help arrived? ..... Is what I thought, but I don’t see any other people around.

——Thud!

“Wha!!!?”

This time, it happened right in front of my eyes.

Children fell from the sky and squashed Bloody Wolves on landing.

Haa!? It's a lie, right!? They sunk into the ground!!

I don't even have to confirm to figure out the wolves died.

What a thing. Four Bloody Wolves were defeated in an instant.

“Be careful, okay?”

“”Ye~s!””

“O, oi!?”

The children face one of the remaining Bloody Wolves and start charging at it.

Gray-san leaks out a panicked voice.

Haa!? Wait a minute!

Are those two planning to fight a Bloody Wolf!?

That's reckless! Why did you send them off!

The children approach the Bloody Wolf and begin to attack it.

“Ya!” “Hoi”

“Tou” “Ha!”

They are fighting with the Bloody Wolf on equal terms!?

This must be a joke, right!?

Even Gray-san would have troubles fighting a Bloody Wolf one on one. The children are able to fight such a monster!?

Is this a dream? It's a dream, right?

No, no, the Bloody Wolf is aching with pain. This is real.

But, this is a dreamlike even without a doubt.

“Horyaa~”

“Nsho!”

They get distance when the opponent attacks, and they shout when they attack.

The children are fighting effortlessly.

“”Here, here♪””

Uwa~ they are even provoking it..... just what is going.....

"Yoo!" "Hoi."

Ah, the Bloody Wolf's posture crumbled.

""Tou!""

"Gyaun!"

The two didn't miss the opportunity and kick the wolf with all their might.

The Bloody Wolf wasn't able to endure the kicks and got blown away.

""Ah.""

Ah.....

The Bloody Wolf, the kids sent flying crashes into the Bloody Wolf the guardian-like man is fighting.

The two wolves collide and roll on the ground.

The man looks startled this way, but seeing the children his face shows consent.

He then approaches the wolf and stabs it with his sword.

He finished it, right?

That means, these guys... everything..... they defeated everything, right.....

"Oi! You alright!?"

Ah..... a knight of other team has arrived. It's already over, though.....

..... Ah, un. Rather, we were saved.....

It can't be helped that I needed a little more time to return to reality after witnessing something so shocking, right?

## **Chapter 28**

A Moment of Relief

""Onii~chan!""

The two children jump at me more enthusiastic than usual.

I was a little surprised, but I was able to catch them and gather them up in my arms.

"You two seem so happy."

""It was fun♪""

..... Un. You two were playing, after all.

""Are you unhurt?"

“”Yea!””

I make sure if the two are not injured, but it seems to be okay.

I understood that they could defeat a B-Rank monster without getting injured.

Though I intended to do my best to avoid the situations Allen and Elena have to fight, but it's also important to support them to my best ability.

“The hell is this~!!”

After arriving and seeing the situation, Wald-sama who froze in a spot with his eyes open finally snapped back to reality and shouted.

The other members are having a similar reaction.

Injured colleagues, 7 Bloody Wolf corpses and two children in high spirits..... Ah~ Un. It certainly may be a delicate scene.

“..... Isaac, see the injured first and treat their wounds.”

“Understood.”

Hearing Wald-sama's orders, Risner-sama takes a few subordinates and checks on the injured.

“Iris, check on injured.”

“Yes!”

Iris-san also goes to check on the injured. She can use Light Magic, so she's able to cure severely wounded people with Healing Magic.

I can use Healing Magic too, but... umm..... they don't need my help... right?

Indeed, I don't want to show more than this.

Un, I will leave it to everyone.

“Now then, Takumi. Did you defeat all these Bloody Wolves yourself?”

Uo!! Wald-sama inquiries with a menacing voice.

He's unreasonably scary. Moreover, his stare is piercing?

“..... No. You are wrong?”

Allen and Elena helped me. I didn't do it alone.

“Correction. Did you and the two shorties defeat all these Bloody Wolves?”

“..... That's correct.”

The brightness in Wald-sama's eyes became even sharper.

Seems like I won't be able to deceive him.

“..... I see..... that helped. There’s no time to dismantle, but collect everything, for now.”

“Roger.”

I stood steady ready for next Wald-sama’s incomprehensible action, but he lightly claps ponpon on my shoulders, then he went to check with Isaac-san on the situation.

..... It didn’t look like he was angry.

First of all, let’s do as told and collect the corpses of the Bloody Wolves.

When I finished collecting them, the emergency treatment ended as well.

Unfortunately, the low-grade drugs and Iris-san’s Healing Magic is not enough to help all members recover completely. I see bandaged people here and there.

Only about half is completely recovered.

After a little bit, the last team joined up with us.

But, it wasn’t possible to immediately move to the camping point so we have changed the location of the camp.

“Farius, I want to confirm the situation with you, is that all right?”

“Ou. No problem.”

The leader of the team that was attacked by the Bloody Wolves, Captain of the Third Unit of Shirin Knights, Farius Tierra-sama.

Tierra-sama is the eldest son of a Count House and Wald-sama’s friend.

Also, he’s the person supporting his body with a sword who called out to me before.

Although he was cured with Iris-san’s Healing Magic, his face is still a little bit pale from the loss of blood.

“Even though I say that, the one who defeated the pack of the Bloody Wolves which assaulted us was..... Takumi? They saved us. Nevertheless, Wald. You have brought an outrageous fellow along. He defeated the enemies all of us couldn’t match without getting hurt.”

“Although I was the one who brought Takumi and the children along, I didn’t know that much about his real ability. Speaking frankly, it was unexpected.”

It’s tough being the subject of the topic, though.....

I can’t even leave because Wald-sama forcefully made me sit next to him.....

“It’s hard to believe, isn’t it?”

“Brad, it’s certain that Takumi-san possesses a tremendous ability.”

“Isaac? I see... Even without conclusive evidence, if you are the one saying so, it must be true...”

The leader of the last team to join up, Vice Captain of the Third Unit of Shirin Knights, Brad Ganforg-sama listens with a bewildered expression.

“Hahaha~ Takumi doesn’t look strong at all, after all~”

“Whoa!”

Wald-sama claps on my back while laughing.

Slightly painful..... moreover, above all, my whole body is shaking.

“Captain again..... the children will kick you flying, you know?”

The kids growl while glaring at Wald-sama again.

When Risner-sama brings it up, they are already ready to jump at any moment.

“”Uu~””

“I, I’m not bullying him or anything!?”

Wald-sama defends himself in panic, but the two didn’t stop growling at him.

“Allen-kun, Elena-san. Next time Captain does something rude, it’s all right to kick him flying okay? However, make sure he doesn’t die in the process please.”

“”Yea!””

“Oi!? Isaac, why are you giving them permission on your own!?”

“It’s all right. I told them to not kill you. Start learning please if you find it disagreeable.”

“.....”

Hahaha~ If you tell that to the children, they will really kick Wald-sama flying, you know? Allen and Elena responded with sparkling eyes...

Rather, aren’t those two relatively good with Risner-sama? Moreover, it’s because he always stops Wald-sama when he jabs me... is that really because of that simple reason?

Also, isn’t the way Risner-sama is handling Wald-sama gradually getting rougher?

“Well~ Looking at the children, I got worried that our Captain is too much of a good for nothing. I intend to take this opportunity to make him learn properly.”

“Haah..... is that so?”

As if hearing the voice in my mind, Risner-sama answers while smiling.

Your face is smiling, but your eyes are not!? Just how much trouble does Wald-sama bring to Risner-sama every day!?

““Can’t~?””

They probably saw my troubled expression. Allen and Elena ask to confirm. However, if these two plead me like that..... I can’t refuse.

“Ah~... You got Risner-sama’s permission so... is that really alright?”

“Yes, I don’t mind.”

“Oi!?”

“Want to have a kick at once?”

““Can I??””

“Why!?”

Tierra-sama, Ganforg-sama, and everyone around who heard our conversation started laughing.

Wald-sama started looking around timidly.

“However, don’t you think the forest is a bit strange?”

After the laughing calmed down, Teirra-sama suddenly says with a serious expression.

“Yes. Our unit encountered almost no monsters since yesterday. Speaking frankly, it’s strange.”

Ganforg-sama reports while frowning.

“I was thinking it’s strange since a while ago. Rudolph-san is of the same opinion.”

“Ah. The number of monsters we have encountered is too few. Despite that, the monsters attack in groups.”

Every subjugation unit feels that something strange is going on in the forest.

Based on that, we should be talking about the future plan.

““Ah.?””

“N? Is something the... matter.....!!”

In the middle of the conversation, Allen and Elena suddenly leak out small voices.

Feeling somehow uncomfortable, I look towards the direction the two are looking at.

There, I see a big serpent coiled around a thick tree aiming at us.

“Wha...! Above!!”

I raise my voice to notify the others who didn’t notice yet.

What a thing! My attention was elsewhere so I wasn’t aware something like that got so close to us.

“Wha!!!”

“!!!!!”

Shurushuru the sound of hissing resounds.

Everyone was lost for words because of its size.

“... Evil Viper!!”

An enormous snake tens of meters in length. An A-Rank monster, Evil Viper has appeared.

## **Chapter 29**

vs. Wicked Snake

“Sha————!!”

Evil Viper jumps down from the tree with its mouth open wide.

“””Whao————!!”””

It swoops down on the Knights who were resting near the tree.

“””Yaa!”””

Allen and Elena had approached the Evil Viper before I noticed, they get past the Knights, ready to kick the Evil Viper's jaw.

“! Allen, Elena get away! Wind Cutter.”

I quickly get the two in panic and release a Wind Cutter.

Allen, Elena... when did you move there? No, un..... you have excellent moves, but... don't surprise me like that.....

The Evil Viper got pushed 1-2 meters away, but there was no visible damage.

“Earth, penetrate Earth Needle.”

Several sharp pillars project from the ground in pursuit of the Evil Viper.

“You guys, quickly withdraw!”

Farius Tierra-sama shouts loudly and evacuates the Knights who are near the Evil Viper.

The one who used the Earth Magic a little while ago was apparently Tierra-sama.

The Tierra House is famous for producing people specialized in Earth Magic. He himself is probably a knight with Earth Magic as a specialty.

“Takumi, right? You were a great help.”

“No, Tierra-sama had a great follow-up.”

“I don’t like being called by my household’s name. Farius is all right. Rather than those, these pipsqueaks are amazing. They reacted faster than anyone.”

“These two acted intuitively...”

Farius-sama stands beside and addresses me.

If not for this situation, I would like to have a nice long talk, but we can’t afford that at the moment.

“Evil Viper, huh. A nasty fellow has appeared. Oi, wounded people fall back! Don’t get in the way or all of us will die.”

Rudolph-san clicks his tongue, prepares his halberd and tells the injured to stay away.

I also give instructions to Allen and Elena to stay away from the Evil Viper.

“Iris, Gilm! You two provide support. Zack! Don’t act carelessly!!”

“I know!!”

Iris-san and Gilm-san take some distance, and set up their bows and throwing knives.

Zack-san draws his sword and lines up beside Rudolph-san.

“Gill, provide support.”

From another party, “Flaming Soldiers Troupe”, swordsmen Gantz-san and Mick-san, and a mage Gillbard-san take battle positions.

The Knights who can move also draw their swords.

As expected, the half of the Knights that were attacked by the Bloody Wolves and Black Twin Sword party fell back.

“There!!”

When the battle preparations finished, Rudolph-san begins by slashing his halberd.

“Tsk! Ineffective as I expected. Didn’t leave a single scratch.”

It has received almost no damage so far.

Evil Viper’s body—its shiny black surface doesn’t get damaged by both physical attacks and magic. It’s a first-grade material for protective gear. Soft and light attacks won’t injure it.

——Doshin.

Evil Viper's tail strikes the ground.

Uo! What a terrible sound. If that hits, won't one receives a good amount of damage?

"Ha!"

"Yaa!"

"Fire, congregate Fire Ball."

"Light, pierce Light Arrow."

Offensive ranged attacks. Magic attacks. One after another hits the target, but to no effect.

Where is its weak point?

I observe the Evil Viper while shooting magic.

"""Guha!!"""

Some of the knights get blown away by the viper's tail.

The Evil Viper hisses as if sneering at us.

And the next moment, it rushes towards Zack-san.

Fast!

"Guh!!"

Zack-san tried to avoid, but the Evil Viper curved its body and instantly changed directions. It rammed into him, and he got blown off.

Furthermore, it continues to charge into other knights.

""Unyuu~""

Eeeeh~!?

Allen and Elena caught the Evil Viper's tail and stopped its charge.

Again!? Mou~ why don't you obediently wait for me~!!

The Evil Viper's charge was stopped thanks to those two? The damage has been thereby suppressed, but... However, see, because you stopped the Evil Viper's charge, it turned towards you two~!

"Allen, Elena! It's dangerous, so release the tail and get away from it!!"

I immediately retrieve a knife from Infinite Storage.

Then, I throw it at the Evil Viper who is glaring at Allen and Elena.

If the skin is hard, how about its eyes?

“Sha————!!”

The skillfully thrown knife stabs into the Evil Viper’s left eye.

The Evil Viper shouts in pain and starts violently thrashing around.

Bang, thud, the sound of the ground getting hit resounds.

“Nice, Takumi! Haaaa!”

Wald-sama envelops his sword with a flame and slashes at the Evil Viper.

Is that a magic sword?

Ju... the sound and smell of burning spreads. The attack seemed to work a bit, but Wald-sama’s sword was repelled.

Then, the one-eyed Evil Viper furiously stares over here—at me.

I suddenly had an unpleasant feeling. And at once, Allen and Elena switched their gazes towards me.

“”Ukya!””

It aimed for that moment.

The Evil Viper hit Allen and Elena with all its might.

“Allen! Elena!!”

The two are blown two meters away.

Shit! What a terrible mistake!

“Iris!”

“Understood!”

At Rudolph-san instructions, Iris-san rushes to the two.

“.....”

I also wanted to run over immediately.

However, the one-eyed Evil Viper aimed for me as it fixedly watched me.

If I run over to Allen and Elena now, the Evil Viper will definitely charge at me.

Therefore, I can’t leave this place.

“It’s okay. They will be able to get up immediately.”

“Yes, I know.”

Rudolph-san calls out to me who is worried about the children.

Certainly, Allen and Elena got up immediately.

Therefore, I calm myself down, but a certain emotion gushes out.

"... Rudolph-san, can you gain me a bit of time?"

"What do you plan to do?"

"I will use an advanced Wind Magic."

"..... You can use it?"

"I have never used it before. However, I feel like I will definitely be able to use it now."

Yep, there's no problem proficiency wise. I should be able to use it.

Even if I normally wouldn't, I feel like I would be able to do anything at this moment.

"..... I understand. Leave it to us."

"Thank you. Separate from the Evil Viper on my sign, please. If possible, please evacuate behind me."

"Roger."

After requesting Rudolph-san, I start gathering a significant amount of magical power.

I extend my right hand and concentrate all the magical power I gather into it.

How much..... is this much okay?

I give the signal to Rudolph-san, and everyone evacuates behind me. And then, I activate the magic.

The Evil Viper who wasn't being restricted anymore started creeping towards me.

"Sha-----!"

The Evil Viper creeping on the ground raises its head and cries out.

"Wind. Reap my enemy apart, Wind Edge."

Just like reaping grass with a sickle..... a wind scythe aims towards the Evil Viper's neck.

——Slash!!!

The condensed wind explodes.

That instant, the Evil Viper's head supan snapped and rolled on the ground. Without the head, the rest of the body crumbled to the ground.

The moment I thought it's finally over——

——Mishimishi... bam, mishimishi... bam!

"Ge!"

Many trees thick as three to four adult men joining hands, fall to the ground.

The wind flew far better than I expected.

"....."

"Ahahahahaha~~"

Shit! I used too much magical power.....

And I even thought that I stopped increasing magical power at the right moment.....

It looks like if I used a bit more magical power, there would be a recreation spot created inside the forest.

Advanced magic, scary!

The spectacle of an A-Rank monster was splendidly blown away.

## **Chapter 30**

Tidying Up

"How powerful magic can you use....."

"Hahaha~"

Rudolph-san who promptly came to his senses says tiredly.

"Takumi, Evil Viper's blood is a precious material. Quickly store it in your Infinite Storage before everything spills out."

I follow Rudolph-san instructions and quickly tidy up the Evil Viper.

There, Allen and Elena run up to me.

""Onii~chan! Ama~zing!""

"Ahahaha~ Thanks. Allen, Elena, how are your injuries?"

""Fi~ne""

Allen and Elena who saw my magic became slightly excited. After holding them up in my arms, I confirm their safety first.

There, Iris-san approached.

"Iris-san, thank you very much"

"..... Yeah. Don't worry about it. I didn't do that much. Ah... the two didn't have any large injuries, it was only a scratch. I healed them just in case, but there may be a bump so look over their state for a while."

I thank Iris-san while embracing Allen and Elena. She herself is a mage, so her cheeks stiffened a bit under the overwhelming power of the wind.

However, I perceived that she tried her best to act normally. Both Rudolph-san and she talked to me normally without making a distance..... they are really good people.

Still, Allen's and Elena's injuries seemed to be only a few scratches. Their bodies are more sturdy than that of an ordinary person as expected.

I got goosebumps because an ordinary person would receive serious injuries or even possibly die from that.

I will be careful, so something like that never happens again! Yeah, I have made up my mind.

"Takumi, collect all the trees you knocked down too."

"Eh? All of it!?"

"Naturally! Are you trying to make those splendid tree rot in vain!? You shouldn't have a problem with that much magical power!"

The capacity of Infinite Storage depends on the user's magical power. An ordinary user would be able to store about several tons of items. In my case, I should be all right with tens of thousands.

As the name suggests, limitless. I can store without limits. Rudolph-san probably said that because he understood.

I have collected every fallen tree.

And then, after the injured were treated we returned to the original place.

Now then, there's one more thing to tidy up.

"Takumi, you saved us. Still, what an unbelievable spell..... wha!? O, oi!?"

Ignoring Wald-sama, I approached a certain knight and swung my leg at him. Because I used the power of the wind, he instantly fell down.

"Whoa! ..... guh."

I trample down on that man's throat, take out my katana and graze it against his cheek.

"Takumi!?"

"W, what!?"

Surprised voices resound from around.

"Don't move."

I calmly say to the man under my feet.

It wasn't that of a loud voice, but it was enough to make him stop trying to run away.

"Takumi, what are you doing!?"

Wald-sama calls out again.

"What am I doing..... is it? Please ask this fellow instead."

"Ha? Sajesh? Sajesh, you, did you do something?"

"I didn't do anything!"

"..... Takumi?"

"How dare you- Even though your eyes were so full of bloodthirst just a while ago, to say that you didn't do anything....."

"Come again!? Are you sure?"

Everyone listening gets surprised.

"It's the truth. He was glaring at Takumi since he joined us. I have turned a blind eye because I judged he wouldn't hurt Takumi, but. As expected, doing something like that from behind while I was putting my life on the line, I also couldn't leave it alone."

"Wha!?"

Looks like Rudolph-san noticed it too. As one would expect from him.

The people who haven't noticed became even more surprised.

"Even I who is unrelated is bothered by it. Takumi had no choice, but to be conscious all the time that he is being a target. And yet, the actual damage actually fell on the pipsqueaks."

Yes. Allen and Elena got injured because of this fellow.

"..... No way. The reason the two suddenly turned around and were attacked by the Evil Viper....."

"They felt this guy's bloodthirst and promptly turned around."

Rudolph-san explains everything in my stead.

That's right. At that time, this man's bloodthirst swelled up for an instant. Because of that, Allen and Elena reacted to the bloodthirst and turned around.

These children are very sensitive to negative feelings against me. Because of that, they unconsciously responded to it and turned around.

"Sajesh... you....."

"It's a lie!! Stop talking crap!"

Sajesh is resisting even after all of that.

"People might have believed you if only I said it. However, a genuine A-Rank Rudolph-san explained it himself. And you say that this is crap? Stop joking around!!"

With only my testimony, there would be probably only a few people who would believe me. In fact, there wasn't anyone else who noticed his bloodthirst... That doesn't mean the Knights are incompetent. It's just that they weren't conscious of their colleague.

I think Rudolph-san explained personally because he understood.

"Ugu."

"Confess it" with those words, Sajesh crumbled completely.

"You! You are in the wrong!! A commoner like you who came from who knows where favored by Captain Ruven!!"

N? Captain Ruven?

Sajesh's reason was a bit unexpected.

"..... Wald-sama?"

"....."

When I look at Wald-sama, he instantly looks away. He keeps on looking away.

Because it seemed like I will never get my answer, I look towards Risner-sama for the explanation. Then, Risner-sama starts inevitably explaining.

"He's Sajesh Krantz. He's a member of the third unit, but that... he has openly declared his love for Captain....."

"L, love!? Not respect or admiration!?"

"Yes, it's a love..."

Eeh!? He loves him..... seriously.....

A masculine knight and a slender, handsome knight..... no need to guess, aren't they favorite food of rotten women?

Haa~ I, it's my first time seeing it in person... As expected, they are even in the Knights. No, is that precisely because the Knights is a male society?

Therefore, I use the wind and quietly take distance from Sajesh.

Eh, does that perhaps mean that Sajesh recognized me as his love rival!?

Why does he have such misunderstanding!?

It's a mystery how he came to that conclusion. Because I received a slight shock, I call Allen and Elena for healing.

"Then, the reason this person has picked a quarrel with me is that he thinks I have snagged Captain Wald from him?"

"Wrong!!"

Wald-sama cries out loudly.

"I definitely have no interest in keeping men company!!!"

Hohou~ To deny it so strongly... right?

"Wald-sama seems like a person who trains all the time, so it's unlikely he has a history with women. Then..... in fact....."

"Takumi!? What are you saying!!"

"No, no, isn't it all right? Each person has his own interests, please don't mind us."

"Yo... you, stop joking! I said that you are wrong!!

Indeed, it makes you want to tease him, right?

"Takumi-san. Please stop teasing Captain anymore."

"Ah, yes."

Since Risner-sama stopped me, I will end my teasing of Wald-sama here.

"Teasing... Takumi, youuu!!"

Wald-sama finally notices that I was teasing him.

"I'm really sorry that we have involved Takumi-san in the circumstances of us Knights. Our supervision was too poor. However, how about entrusting the punishment to the Knights?"

"I don't mind."

Risner-sama apologized and asked to entrust Sajesh's punishment to the Knights.

Of course, I agreed.

Risner-sama got taken aback by my simple acknowledgment.

"..... Is that okay? It reached the extent the children got injured, you know?"

"That is so. However, in the end, Allen and Elena got off only with some scratches, and I also am responsible for leaving this person's bloodthirst just like that. However, if there's a next time, I won't be so lenient."

Certainly, getting Allen and Elena injured is not tolerable, however, while that may be true, solving him with violence or killing him off..... I won't do something like that. I'm not such a person.

Because I have no problem with it, I leave the Knights deal with Sajesh.

"I will also apologize. I'm sorry for my subordinate."

"Thank you very much for your open-mindedness."

Farius-sama and Ganforg-sama lower their heads.

It has been decided that the other Knights will monitor Sajesh, while his punishment will be decided later.

Although I say punishment, it was just a bloodthirst, so I don't think it will be a heavy punishment. A wage cut? Demotion or discharge from Knights probably won't happen.

All is fine if he doesn't pick up a quarrel with me anymore.

"Is it over? Takumi, I'm hungry. Food, please."

"..... Eh?"

After tidying up, Rudolph-san suddenly says.

I couldn't understand for a moment.

No, no, that's the line you would normally say to Cain-san or Heinz-san, right? Why are you saying that to me!?

"The most important person of the battle, I is starving. I don't want to eat dried meat or hard bread, I want to eat something delicious."

"Allen is hungry too~"

"Elena too~"

Ah, yes. I have to make a meal for Allen and Elena. It's almost time for the sun to set, they have been moving all afternoon, huh. Of course, they'd be hungry.

Well~ I'm grateful to Rudolph-san and the others, so there's no problem making something, but.....

Glance, I glance and the Knights. The Knights who weren't with us don't know what's going on, but the eyebrows of the Knights in our team turned into "□".

They want me to prepare their meals too, but they are afraid to ask because of the matter with Sajesh. They are making such expressions.

Speaking frankly, I don't have any good feelings towards Sajesh. However, it's not like I'm angry at the other Knights.....

Now then, what should I do?

"Make, many~"

"Will help~"

Seeing me troubled, Allen and Elena grab my hands and drag me to Cain-san and Heinz-san while talking.

“..... Eh? That.....”

Cain-san and Heinz-san troubled with an answer, look at children, me, Wald-sama and Risner-sama..... then, their eyes wander.

“Can’t~?”

“..... It’s not like that.”

Allen and Elena support me.

Mou~! These children are seriously good children!!

I could not bear it anymore and patted their heads.

“Because Allen and Elena are hungry, won’t you help me out?”

“Y, yes! What shall we start with!”

Since it’s been decided, let’s start right away!

The gathered mushrooms, wild grass, the dismantled Orc meat at hand, with the help of the two Knights we have prepared a lot of food which everyone ate.

Quite a delicious meal if I say so myself. I’m satisfied!

The next day, it was judged that there were too many injured people and continuing the investigation would be dangerous. It has been decided to return to the town after three days of the expedition.

## **Chapter 31**

First Shopping

A day after returning from the expedition, we were leisurely spending time in the inn’s room.

Therefore, I decided to confirm my status which I did not see for a while.

□□□□

### **Status**

Name: Takumi Kayano

Race: Human? Wind God’s retainer (Temporary)

Occupation: Magician

Age: 20

Level: 25

## Skills

- Light Magic 66
- Dark Magic 62
- Wind Magic 169
- Water Magic 50
- Space Magic 109
- Life Magic 124
- Swordsmanship 54
- Throwing 49
- Appraisal 209
- Dismantling 119
- Familiars 22
- Training 12
- Cooking 113
- Sewing 23
- Washing 12
- Cleaning 31
- Crafting 39
- Gathering 42
- Arithmetics 108
- Reading 125
- Concealment 37
- Detection 35
- Oracle 12
- Abnormal Status Resistance 300
- Mental Status Resistance 300
- Physical Attack Resistance 300
- Magic Attack Resistance 300

## Titles

- Transmigrated From a Different World
- Blessed by the God of Creation, Marianora
- Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
- Savior
- Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon
- Monster Contractor

## Contracted Beasts

- Fenrir (Joule)
- Thunderhawk (Bolt)
- Celestial Tiger (Feat)

□□□□□

My level increased considerably, and my skill proficiencies rose too.

A new entry, "Contracted Beasts" appeared.

And, strangely, I have obtained "Water Magic".

Because its proficiency is not in the single digits, I think it means that I didn't learn it naturally, but it's something that I was given. It's not something the Wind God Syl could give me directly, but I think he somehow has his hands in it.

Speaking of Water Magic, it's something Allen and Elena have, but never learned how to use it.

But, unlike the advanced knowledge about Wind Magic that was implemented into me, I have little to no knowledge about Water Magic...

In the first place, because all the knowledge about the use of magic was implemented, I have no idea how to teach them.

Would they sell magic books in the bookstores? Let's look for a bookstore later.

""O~ne, two~, three~, fo~ur, five~ ..... ten!""

I put the teaching of magic aside for now and taught Allen and Elena numbers.

"Yes, well done. This is a copper coin. What goes after 10 copper coins?"

""This!""

"Correct~"

""Ehehe~""

In the beginning, I thought it would be nice if I could teach them to count up to 100, but the two learned it just like that.

Therefore, I greedily taught them to count up to 10,000♪

And then, I lined up coins by ten side by side, 10 Copper coins, 10 Large Copper coins..... first of all, I taught them about five kind of coins.

"Then, next is 54G."

""N, this..... here!""

"Correct~"

""Yay~""

When I ask for a specific amount, Allen and Elena correctly count and present me with 5 Large Copper coins and 4 Copper coins.

They were nervously presenting the coins at first, but they got the gist of it after doing it several times, and now they have confident expressions.

When I pat their heads while saying "You did well", the two look very happy.

Seriously adorable!!

"Then, if I shopped for 26G with this?"

""N, umm..... this!""

I only taught them about five kinds of coins, but they accurately grasped their value.

Therefore, this time, I handed them a Silver coin and asked them to return me the correct amount. The two correctly returned me 7 Large Copper coins and 4 Copper coins.

Not only addition, but they are also able to subtract. Aren't they amazing?

If they were able to come this far, putting it into practice follows, right?

◇ ◇ ◇

"Allen, Elena. Is there something you want to buy?"

We went to the shopping street at once.

The store we went to first deals in dried food. They are selling the dried fruits Allen and Elena often eat for snacks.

The shop assistant is a middle-aged woman, and because this woman always looks at Allen and Elena with gentle gaze when we are here, I have decided on this shop to be Allen's and Elena's first shopping place.

"Welcome. Have you found what you want?"

Sure enough, the woman matched the children's eyes and picked up the jar with products, so it's easier to see.

"Can you show what you want and say 'Please', Allen?"

"Yea! This! Please!"

Allen says while pointing at an apricot-like dried fruit in the jar.

"Yes. Shuri fruit, is it? How many would you like?"

"Umm..... five!"

After Allen was asked about the number of pieces he wanted, he glanced at me first, so I showed him "5" with my palm. Then, Allen correctly answered the woman with the right number.

"5 pieces, is it? That will cost you 75G."

"Urmm..... here!"

"Oh? ..... My! It's accurate! How admirable~"

The woman got surprised the moment Allen took out the money. She then looked at me, and I nodded at her with the meaning of the request. My meaning seemed to have conveyed properly, as she faced Allen right away.

Allen took out coins from his pouch and handed them to the woman. The woman received the money, got surprised that the amount was right and praised Allen.

“Next is Elena, okay?”

“Yup! Elena, this! Please!”

“Yes. Riigo fruit. How many would you like?”

“Five!”

Elena who could observe the exchange between the woman and Allen had a smoother time.

“Yes. Then, that makes 60G.””

“Ummm..... here!”

“Yes. That’s just right. How admirable~”

The woman also praised Elena well.

It really helps she praised them equally.

““We did it~?””

“Yeah. You did really well~ Admirable, admirable.”

Because the two clung to me after storing the dried fruit in their pouches, I patted their heads a lot.

“Thank you very much for going along.”

When I thank the woman who helped Allen and Elena with their first shopping, the woman said “Don’t worry about it”.

Together with the thanks, I bought some dried fruit, nuts, spices and fine powders in a reasonable amount.

We went to the bookstore next.

Although the objective is to purchase books related to magic, I also need to buy some novels.

I haven’t read anything since arriving at Aetherdia. I read dozens of novels a month back on Earth, so I’m already missing it.

The paper is also produced on Aetherdia, so it’s quite inexpensive. Because of that, the books are sold at a reasonable price.

A paper is a high-class item, and books are luxuries! I’m glad it wasn’t that kind of pattern.

Good amount of books is displayed on the bookshelves.

Books about magic, medicinal plants, monster books with pictures and their special traits, poetry, and scriptures. Of course, there are also many in the novels genre. Well~ most of the contents of the stories are about adventures and love, though.

After looking around the shop for a while, I found “Magic Basics” “List of Incantations”, these two books.

Not necessary for me, but I thought it would be easier to explain to Allen and Elena, so I brought encyclopedias like “Complete Works of Plants” “Complete Works of Monsters” and returned to the inn.

## **Chapter 32**

Rank Up

“Takumi-san!”

We visit the Adventurer’s Guild today. It’s to complete the procedures required for us to receive the Gaya Forest expedition request reward.

Risner-sama said to come to the guild to receive the reward the other day.

When we enter the building, Luna-san jumps out from behind the counter.

“Luna-san? What’s the matter?”

“I was waiting for you!! Now then, let’s go to the Guild Master! Hey, quickly! Allen-kun, Elena-chan too, come quickly.”

“!! Onii~chan~”

Guild Master?

While not understanding, Luna-san drags me deeper into the guild and takes me to the Guild Master’s office. Allen and Elena trot after me while confused.

“Master, Takumi-san has arrived so I brought him.”

“Ah, come in.”

When Luna-san knocked at the door and stated her business, she immediately received a response from the other side.

When I opened the door, I saw a man with gray hair sitting on the front office desk. The man stands from his chair and shows us inside.

“I work as the Master of Shirin’s Adventurer’s Guild. Johann is my name.”

“I’m Takumi Kayano. These children are Allen and Elena. It’s nice to meet you.”

This man is the Guild Master. He seems to know about me, but I introduced myself just in case.

The Guild Master urges us to sit on a sofa in the middle of the room. I sit on the sofa as told, Allen and Elena sit on both of my sides.

“..... This man? He doesn’t seem like it..... However, if Ruven-dono and Rudolph-dono are saying so, it can’t be wrong.....”

Wald-sama and Rudolph-san?

While I let Allen and Elena sit down on the sofa, the Guild Master mutters something to himself. I wasn’t able to hear properly, but the two’s names came up, right?

“..... Umm?”

“Oh no, I was told leaving your rank as is would be foolish. However, you don’t look that strong to me.....”

It appears that the business was about a rank up.

Which reminds me, Wald-sama and Rudolph-san were talking about something like that in the Gaya Forest. The talk went quite quickly.....

And then, the Guild Master looks directly at me and states bluntly.

“Don’t think badly of me. I have initially raised to the post of Guild Master by doing secretary work, I don’t know much about fighting. But, seeing adventurers for so long I have developed an eye for strong individuals, but..... unlike the other adventurers I have seen before..... I don’t understand well...”

To adventurers, being told “You don’t look that strong” is something that would make them angry.

Actually, since my neurons were destroyed once before.....

Therefore, the Guild Master’s standard for judging adventurers can’t be applied to me.

Also, the aura of the strong? Is it because I don’t have something like that?

At any rate, I didn’t go through the “getting stronger little by little” process, so it’s impossible to have that.

“..... Well, your real ability was without a doubt endorsed by those two. I intend to make you an A-Rank.”

“Eeh? A-Rank!?”

I thought it would be C-Rank, but A-Rank?

To be honest, I got so surprised a strange voice left my mouth.

"What about examination and such?"

"There's no problem since Ruven-dono and Rudolph-dono confirmed your ability. You have defeated Bloody Wolves and Evil Viper, right?"

You have completely given up your judgment of me not looking that strong, didn't you..... is it okay to rank up that easily?

Whether it is nobility and captain of the Knight Wald-sama or Rudolph-san who is a high-rank adventurer who guaranteed my ability, it is, after all, information from someone else. But, if the Guild Master accepted it so quickly, he must trust those two quite a lot.

"So, an A-Rank?"

"The Guild Master's authority can grant rank only up to A-Rank. Approval of several Guild Masters is needed for S-Rank, so that's indeed impossible for me."

It's the opposite, opposite! I was uneasy because my rank raised too much!

Nobody can complain about not becoming an S-Rank!

"According to what I heard, those children are also strong. What do you want to do?"

"..... What to do?"

"I can also give rank to these children, but if children like that receive a high rank it will most likely have the opposite effect. But, if they at E-Rank you won't be able to accept high-rank requests because your party will stay at a low level."

Ah, indeed.

Because the members' average rank determines the party rank, the party rank at this rate would be "D" I think?

It's not a problem for me, but if the Guild needed me to take a request I would be able to.....

He asked for our convenience rather than going straight for the profit first.

Chirari, when I glance at Allen and Elena, they obediently sit while smiling at me. They are not alerted at all.

It's no doubt that this Guild Master is a good person.

In that case, let's compromise.

"I'm okay without raising the rank of the two, but..... if it's a problem for the guild how about increasing their rank to D?"

"Fumu~ If that's the case..... the party rank would be C? That is reasonable....."

If Allen and Elena become D-Rank, the party rank will become C. It's possible to receive requests that are one rank higher, in other words, B-Rank requests. A-Rank requests are very rare, so we will be able to receive almost every requests.

"Mm. Well then, let's finish the procedure."

◇ ◇ ◇

We left the office of the Guild Master, went to the counter to update the Guild Card, and received the reward which was our original purpose of coming here.

When everything was over, Luna-san looked at me with sparkling eyes as if she was expecting something.

"Now then, Takumi-san!"

"Umm..... what is it?"

Did Luna-san and I make some kind of a promise?

"Materials, the materials~! Please sell me the materials from Gaya Forest~ I have received info from Rudolph-san that Takumi-san has a lot in his possession!"

"Ah, so it's about that."

"That's right! I have waited for Takumi-san's arrival!"

It seems that she marked the Gaya Forest materials. Indeed, Luna-san said something like "Please get a lot".

I have several Red Wolves and Bloody Wolves so it may not be a bad idea to sell them.

And then some medicinal plants? Allen and Elena worked hard and got a lot, so it may be alright to sell some?

"Should I take them out here?"

"Ah! That's right, sorry. But, it's okay! I have secured the biggest warehouse that will even fit the Evil Viper! I will lead you there right away~"

Luna-san knew I have Evil Viper in my possession. Did you hear that from Rudolph-san too.....

Ah, that's right, I'm in charge of looking after the Evil Viper, but the Knights and the other three adventurer parties gave up their rights. Indeed, I refrained from receiving a whole corpse of an A-Rank monster, but..... I was ignored.

Therefore, the whole Evil Viper eventually became ours.

"Over here."

We were taken to the Guild's largest warehouse. Certainly, if it's this place, it will fit if straight, but it will be pretty close if the body bends.

Luna-san contacted the dismantling staff beforehand. They are full of motivation.

But, there's something I have to check first.

"I'd like the Evil Viper's skin for our protective skin, but..."

Because I felt like it's not needed, we didn't use protective gear until now.

A normal shirt and pants with some magic tool accessories are what I usually use.

Allen and Elena are the same.

However, after Allen and Elena received an attack, I started thinking it may not be that bad to use it.

Heavy armor is not possible, but leather breastplate, gauntlets and such would be good. Also, strong boots that suit Allen's and Elena's fighting style.

But think that the Evil Viper's skin is ideal for that.

"Ngu! Not all of it, right!? You will sell us a bit, right!?"

When I tell that I'm unwilling to sell the Evil Viper skin, Luna-san goes into a panic.

"Is there something?"

"To tell the truth..... the Merchant Guild who caught the rumors are persistently contacting us."

Ah, so it's something like that. They probably heard from the Knights or the adventurers that were with us. They probably contacted the Adventurer's Guild immediately after that.

It seems they are eager for profit.

"It's large, after all. Of course, I won't be needing everything, I will properly sell."

"Really! Thank you very much!"

Rudolph-san said that Evil Viper's blood is precious. I retrieve the corpse from the Infinite Storage.

"Whoa~" "... So big" "Amazing!"

Seeing the Evil Viper's body, the entranced staff in the warehouse leak voices of amazement.

"Hey! Everyone, stop staring blankly and begin to work!"

The staff came to their senses after hearing Luna-san and start working on the Evil Viper.

Although Evil Viper's skin is very hard when it's alive, it's quite easier to handle once it died. That being said, it would still be impossible without special Mithril knives and good strength.

"Because the dismantling takes time, should we talk about the sale in the meantime? The dismantled materials will be held in the Guild's warehouse, will you come for it tomorrow?"

"I understand. Also, I would like to sell this too, please."

Red Wolf, Bloody Wolf, Giant Boar, Great Monkey. Also medicinal plants. It was not everything I have, but I take out what I thought would be good to sell from the [Infinite Storage].

They are not all from the Gaya Forest, but they came from Aetherdia, so there shouldn't be a problem?

"Kya——!!!"

Luna-san who saw the goods I took out screams in joy.

## **Chapter 33**

Craftsman Spirit

"I'm sorry, I lost it a bit..... Ah, right, right. Takumi-san, the Head of the Woodworking Department of the Craftsman Guild said that he wanted to see you."

Luna-san whose sanity has returned suddenly recalls something.

The Craftsmen Guild is as the name suggest a guild where craftsmen register, in other words, a commercial and industrial organization.

Woodworking Department—Craftsmen specializing in wood processing such as carpenters and furniture craftsmen.

Blacksmithing Department—Craftsmen specializing in a metal processing of weapons, armors, cooking utensils and such.

Cooking Department—Craftsmen specializing in food such as bakers and chefs.

Medical Department—Craftsmen specializing in medical treatment such as therapists and pharmacists.

— And so on. There are much more various departments.

It's a place to regulate and share information, to arrange work and disciples, and to create connections between craftsmen.

"Craftsmen Guild wants to see me?"

"Yes. Takumi-san brought large trees from the Gaya Forest, right? I think they probably want to buy those from you....."

"....."

Luna-san..... You know even about the trees that I have knocked down and collected? Moreover, it's not only known to the Adventurer's Guild, but even the Craftsmen Guild knows of it?

Evil Viper, trees..... just how much information do you have..... Although it's not regulated, don't you know way too much? It has only been a day since then you know?

I left the adventurer guild and decided to head towards the craftsman guild while dropping my shoulders at the information leak.

"I would like to meet the Head of the Woodworking Department, but."

"Do you have an appointment?"

When I inform the receptionist Oneesan of the Craftsmen Guild, she looks at me with a dubious expression.

If an unfamiliar person suddenly visits and wants to talk with the Department Head without an appointment, you might be suspicious, but this is too much in the face.

"No, I have received a message that the Department Head would like to see me."

"May I inquire about your name, please?"

"Ah, excuse me. It's Takumi Kayano."

"I'm sorry. I have heard the story. I will call the Department Head. Can you wait a moment?"

"Yes, I understand."

When I tell her my name, the receptionist's mood completely changed and she apologized.

It seems she was informed beforehand about my visit.

"Is that Takumi Kayano-dono!"

As soon as the receptionist left her seat, a large man appeared.

Zeezee, he gasps for breath, just how much were you hurrying!?

"Yes, that's right. eh... um, are you the Head of the Woodworking Department?"

"Ah! Excuse me. I'm the Head of the Woodworking Department Galion. It's too quick, but!! Gaya Forest's large tree! You have it, right!?"

"..... Yes."

It is about selling the large tree from the Gaya Forest after all. He's leaning forward, almost falling down. It was to the extent I unconsciously took a step back.

Trees from Gaya Forest seem to be excellent materials. Besides being able to make furniture without seams because it's so big, it contains magical power so it's possible to grant it fireproof magic.

Goods made from these trees are apparently all sold at high price.

But, as we know, Gaya Forest is a dangerous forest. Even when cutting down the trees around the forest, you don't know when a demon appears, so you must not be negligent and hire an escort. Besides, cutting down the trees is a challenge itself. Besides, carrying it back is an equal difficulty.

Therefore, it's not something craftsmen secure on their own, but it's something that the Craftsmen Guild desperately needs.

Yep, that's what the department Head-san told me in excitement.

I don't care about it anymore. I won't understand anymore technical talk!

Of course, I have no use of it, so I agreed to sell. After I had placed the trees in the storehouse, the department Head-san was going to begin to talk again, so I quickly received my money excused myself.

The enthusiasm was conveyed, but I am somewhat tired.....

◇ ◇ ◇

"Hello."

After leaving the Craftsmen Guild, I visited the Gold Wheat's Shop.

Unexpectedly, long time no see? The last time I came was before conquering the dungeon.

"Ou, Takumi....."

"Huh, you look somehow down? There are also no products even though it's just past afternoon?"

Road-san's complexion was bad at first glance. In addition, there were no products lined on the shelves. There should be many products lined up with customers lining up until the evening, but.....

What happened?

"Road-san?"

"No..... you see....."

Road-san begins to speak in a small voice.

His story was like this——

This noble coerced him “Sell the Cream bread” by using his power.

Road-san didn’t defy and made Cream bread with all ingredients he had left.

It seems to have ended at that time.

However, that noble told him to teach him the Cream bread’s recipe next. Naturally, Road-san didn’t respond to that.

A recipe is cook’s treasure. It’s not something that could be given out so easily.

Besides, I was the one who taught him the Cream bread recipe so it’s not something he could teach others on his own.

Is he too loyal or what should I say..... Road-san is an extremely diligent craftsman. But, I have good feelings about Road-san because he’s like that.

After declining him, the noble started making an uproar “They stole our secret recipe” this time. Furthermore, he pressured other stores not to sell the wheat flour which is always necessary for a bakery to “Gold Wheat’s Shop”.

If there is no flour, he can’t make bread.

—Because of that, he had no choice and suspended the business.

What a dirty thing to do!

“If you told the Cream bread recipe, the opponent would pull back, but telling him obediently would be unpleasant..... Road-san. I’d like to investigate for a bit, could you wait for a few days?”

“Of course, I have no objections. It would be annoying just to give up after resisting this much. Rather, sorry for taking your time.”

“Please don’t mind it. I’m not unrelated to this matter either.”

Speaking of which, it’s my fault for teaching Road-san.

Besides, I don’t like people who use such dirty means. I feel like beating him up.

Hm? It’s okay, I won’t beat him up physically. I can do it though if it’s the present me. But, because the opponent is a noble, I would most likely become a criminal?

“Ah, right. I almost forgot. I would like a bit larger amount of bread made, would that be alright? I will be using the ingredients I have at me.”

“Ah, I don’t mind. I’m free anyway.”

“Then, I would like this please.”

I retrieve the necessary ingredients from the Infinite Storage, hand over the paper with number and types of bread to Road-san and left the store after saying I will come tomorrow again.

Now then, let’s start with collecting information!

## **Chapter 34**

### Annoying Person

The name of the noble who is applying pressure on Road-san is a baron from Guardia called Gilbert.

The mastermind unexpectedly became apparent. I went to the store where Road-san usually buys ingredients, and when I asked the shop assistant, he answered me. Plainly.

The person in the shop didn't want to do it, but I couldn't go against a noble. I'm really sorry to Road-san he said.

"Oi! Those kids!"

I was loitering around the shopping street and thinking "What to do?" about Baron Gilbert. All of sudden, a man shouts from behind me.

Allen and Elena got startled and hid behind me.

"Do you need something from the children?"

"Those fellows are my goods!"

"....."

..... What is this guy in the middle of the road talking?

When I appraised him, his occupation is Slave Trader. Slaves may be goods for a slave trader, but does he walk down the street and point at people making them his goods? How rude!

From his behavior, he must be the slave trader who was attacked near the Gaya Forest. He's the one who must have ran away while using Allen and Elena as a decoy.

Though I heard they were half destroyed, this fellow was all right. What a lucky guy!

Rather, he still was in this town..... no, is it different? Has he been attacked on the way to his base?

Well, where this guy's base is at, is unrelated to me, though.

"These children are my younger siblings. Could you please stop saying such rude things?"

"There's no way I would mistake such distinctive kids! I will have you return them to me."

They are not slaves, they have names which are Allen and Elena, and in the first place, speaking about "returning" them is funny.

Even if what the slave trader says is true, it's also true that he "threw them away" while using as a decoy. He has no right to claim himself as their owner. It's only a false charge.

"Could you stop joking around?"

"Shut up! Hand them over at once!!"

"....."

I want to smash him up immediately.

But, if I do that here, he would definitely make an even bigger fuss of it.

I desperately suppress my impulse because I understand that it's a bad move.

"Oi, what is this fuss!"

The town patrol seems to have noticed the uproar.

The curious spectators have gathered around us.

"Just at the right time. It's a thief! This fellow has stolen my goods! Please arrest him!!"

The guards alternate their gazes between the slave trader and me.

"..... Is that the truth?"

"No, I did not do such a thing."

Since the patrolling guard asked, I flatly denied it.

But you see~, a person who stole something wouldn't usually obediently confess "I stole it", wouldn't he? Did you make a mistake in the confirmation method?

Well, if I was arrested without being asked first, it would be a poorly mistaken arrest.

"Have you heard what goods that person said I stole from him? And by looking at this situation, do you really think it's true?"

"..... What are the stolen goods?"

"These children!!"

"".....""

The curious onlookers look with disgust at the uselessly screaming slave trader. Allen and Elena clung to me, hiding even further.

The patrolling guards look at the frightened children hiding behind me and then look with dubious gazes at the slave trader. From the 3rd person view, it must seem like the slave trader has picked a fight with me. Actually, that's true.

"Where's the proof? Please show the proof that these children are your shop's slaves. I will say it beforehand, but these children don't have a slave crest, you know?"

A crest is engraved on the bodies of slaves with Contract Magic which makes the slaves not being able to defy their master. If it's not there, it means that Allen and Elena are not slaves.

Children who escaped on their own would have a crest carved on their bodies.

It costs money to apply Contract Magic. It's this fellow's fault for being a miser.

"The slave trade", the trade of people is authorized in this country. And there are two kinds of slaves. Crime slaves and Debt slaves.

Crime slaves, as the name suggests are people who committed a crime. They are forcibly sent to mines where they have to do manual labor while strictly monitored.

The other one, Debt slaves are people who couldn't return borrowed money and those who sold themselves. If they can pay off their principal, they will be released.

They are used as a workforce, but their human rights are guaranteed. Therefore, there's an obligation to provide meals and minimum necessities of life.

But, owners who treat them like products, not following the responsibility to protect them, and make them do criminal acts are never ceasing. This trader is one of those.

The patrolling guards and the curious onlookers realize that and look at the slave trader with cold eyes.

"If it's the shop assistant of my shop, he can provide the proof!"

"If you tell that to your shop assistant, it will become an order. It won't be proof."

It's easy making things convenient for yourself.

Rather, this must be a daily routine for this fellow.

"Even if it's the truth that these children resemble the children from your shop, it's not restricted only to these children, right? You are a criminal who kidnaps children. Weren't the children slaves in your shop actually kidnapped?"

The patrols and the onlookers hold their breath at my words. I hear□Surely not□from here and there.

With the interaction so far, it has become "It wouldn't be strange if true".

"Let us hear a more detailed story back at the station."

"What have you said!?"

The patrol restricts the slave trader and drags him off.

"I would like to hear your side of the story too, but....."

"I don't want to go to the same place as the trader. The children are frightened."

I didn't feel the obligation to go to the station with the guards, so I refused. The patrol guard seemed to understand and didn't force me to go.

But, I told him my name in case something comes up.

The patrol leaves, the onlookers scatter, I hold Allen and Elena in my arms and immediately leave the place.

""Onii~chan.....""

"Everything's all right. I will be with you as long as Allen and Elena want to stay by my side."

""Yeah.....""

When I reassure Allen and Elena who were full of anxiety, they clung to my arms even stronger.

After gathering information again, I have learned more things.

I have heard from the curious onlookers I have asked "With the noble backing him up, he does as he pleases" or "Recently influential", although on the level of rumors, the people at the shopping street knew quite a bit.

That slave trader——his Gist Company is supported by Baron Gilbert behind the scenes. The very same person who pressured the "Gold Wheat's Shop".

Again!? I almost tsukkomi'd in a loud voice.

Baron Gilbert apparently came to this town in order to purchase slaves.

Moreover, aren't they talking about "children twins"?

Baron Gilbert apparently came to this town thinking he would be able to obtain them and then flew into a rage when he didn't find them at the store. I heard that from the people who passed by the store.

That's why the fuss from a while ago.

Because the children that he used to save himself suddenly appeared in front of him, he was going to obtain them whatever it takes.

It seems that those fellows are opponents who I have to crush with all my strength.

## Chapter 35

Power Against Power

"Alen, Elena. Good morning."

"".....""

Since yesterday, Allen and Elena would never move away from me.

And when I told them good morning today, the two looked at me with dispirited expressions without speaking. They have reverted to their original state they were in when I found them.

That slave trader really did it now!! I will absolutely not let him off!!

I have to prepare one ticket to hell for him..... fufufu...

First, I visit the Adventurer's Guild and finish our business.

I secure several tens meters of Evil Viper's skin and 100kg of its meat and sell the rest to the guild.

When the material such as Bloody Wolves was added, it was a significant sum of money. Even a Platinum coin was mixed in.

I kept half of the money on me and deposited the rest in the guild's deposit.

Next stop is the Knights branch.

A messenger from the Knight's came to the Inn yesterday evening telling me to visit the Knights next day. It seems to be about Sajesh.

This is convenient, so I went.

“——And that's it.”

First, Risner-sama reports about the matter.

Sajesh has been punished by two weeks of house arrest and three months of being demoted to an apprentice.

It's much stricter punishment than I thought. Although it's only three months, it will be probably hard to work as an apprentice.

“That's all from us. So, Takumi, what's wrong?”

Because I conveyed to the messenger yesterday that I would like to consult with Wald-sama about something, he asks me immediately after the report is finished.

“Actually.....—”

First, I spoke about the problem with the slave trader.

As Allen and Elena are orphans, Wald-sama has guaranteed me last time that I'm their guardian. Therefore, it would be better to get the troubles out of my chest beforehand, right?

I mean, although the slave trader was taken to the station yesterday, there will definitely not be enough evidence. I don't think he will give up on the children that easily. He will definitely show up again.

And then, I explain what happened with the Gold's Wheat Shop and Baron Gilbert.

I ask them about what to do since the opponent is a noble. Well, in this area, I don't rely on Wald-sama, but Risner-sama instead.

Would it be possible to cooperate? I had such plan.

Well, my intentions to let someone else take care of them.

I mean, this is a case where I have to smash someone up without directly touching them, right? If it would be directly, Allen and Elena would definitely come into contact with those fellows.

I don't want them to be affected by those fellows anymore. While that may be true, I have no intentions of leaving the twins.

There is no value in leaving the children behind in order to interfere with those fellows.

Therefore——take care of them!

Those fellows! Are definitely! Committing crimes.

Therefore, let's crush them with a frontal attack!

"I see... if it's about that, there's a more suitable person for that than us. Let's head over there."

Risner-sama who heard the story urges us to move.

"Excuse me."

"Oh? Isaac, huh. What's the matter? ... N? This is?"

"He's Takumi Kayano-san."

"Oh! You are! I see, I see, I'm glad you came. Please sit down."

We leave Wald-sama's room, and Risner-sama guides me to a room with a friendly man in his thirties and another man also in his thirties who hadn't spoken yet.

"Takumi-san. This is the Commander and Commander's advisor."

"..... I am glad to meet you. I'm Takumi Kayano....."

"Commander is son of Lauren House the feudal lord governing this territory."

"Derrick Lauren. There are several people of Lauren house in this town, so Derrick is alright."

The destination was the office of the commander of the Knights of Shirin.

The friendly man is Derrick Lauren. He's the most important person of the Knights of Shirin and the Lauren House's second son. Because his older brother was assigned to manage the territory, Derrick-sama became a Knight.

The second man is Philip Callan-sama. Commander's advisor. Not a vice-commander, but he seems to be in charge of administrative work.

Risner-sama has brought me to an incredible place, huh..... tell me beforehand, please.

After the short introductions, I explained my business to the two.

"Fumu, I see. Alright, we will investigate!"

"Eh?"

Derrick-sama takes it in quickly.

It was too unexpected I let out a weird noise.

"Although I have asked you for help, is it alright for you to agree that easily?"

"You took care of my subordinates. Besides....."

When Derrick-sama glances at Callan-sama, Callan-sama clears his throat and starts explaining.

"Information about Baron Gilbert has been reported to the Knights before. He apparently does what he pleases, and reports are coming from here and there, the problems don't run out[]

"There are rumors about that house behaving strangely lately."

"Yes. No special goods are coming from Baron Gilbert which should be covered by taxation, yet he's lavishly buying various luxurious products. Hearing Takumi-dono's story, his relation with the slave trader is suspicious."

"A lot of dust is likely to come out when you hit it, huh....."

"Yes. And in large quantities at that....."

Apparently, there are a lot of things Baron Gilbert is guilty of that I don't know yet.

Nevertheless, Risner-sama and Callan-sama..... they are in a perfect sync..... and their smiles are scary!

"That's why we are already in the middle of an investigation. We also direct people towards Gilbert's territory. Since this is an opportunity, let's us handle your matter too. If we let him do as he pleases in our territory, our reputation will be affected too!"

Ah, un. Derrick-sama also looks quite angry.

Well, I don't mind leaving it to you so please take care of it.

"Apart from that, about the Gold Wheat's Shop! It's the store where the new bread started, right? That bread is good! It's just right to eat when the stomach is empty."

"That's right. The "Phantom Bread" was especially delicious"

"What!? Isaac, you have eaten the "Phantom Bread"!?"

"Yes."

"Ku~ How! How did you obtain it!! It's something sold out on days without set dates in few minutes! It's impossible for someone like us the Knights with duty system to obtain it!!"

A person captivated by the sweet bread is also in here. Risner-sama looks proud to have eaten the Cream Bread.....

Although not seemingly interested, Callan-sama also glances between Risner-sama and me. Is he perhaps concerned about the acquisition route of the Cream Bread?

"The reason why Takumi-dono is being concerned about the Gold Wheat's Shop affair should convey the only possibility."

"I see! They were given by Takumi!"

"Yes, Takumi-san is the inventor of the Cream Bread."

"What!? Is that true?"

"Hoh~"

"Y, yes..."

Scary!!

Derrick-sama's and Callan-sama's eyes look at me as beasts stalking their prey.....

"Regarding the "Phantom Bread" although it's possible to manage somehow, something similar may happen with person in power again, so Takumi-san seems to be troubled."

"all right! Lauren Household will back you up!"

Back up? Lauren House?

What Risner-sama said is not wrong by any means.

Even if we tidy up this matter and reopen, I think that something similar may happen again. If we have a noble's support, something like that will not occur ever again.

But, I'm not satisfied when things advance so smoothly.....

"If you back us up, the "Phantom Bread"... Cream Bread, was it? You will make it for me, right?"

Ueeh!? The aim was the Cream Bread!?

Is he perhaps wanting to support us because of that!?

"What are you talking about? Something hard to obtain will become easy to obtain, you know?"

"That's right. You should do whatever it takes to make hard to obtain things easy to obtain, you know?"

“..... Is that so? Well, if you won’t say to make it when there are no ingredients at hand, that condition seems all right.”

For things, you really want “Pay whatever the price”, is it something like that? It’s backing this time, though.....

“Alright then, let’s go now.”

“Go? To the Gold Wheat’s Shop?”

“Naturally! Now that I will back you up I have to meet the shopkeeper!”

“That’s what you are saying, but in fact, you really just want to eat the Cream Bread, right?”

When Callan-sama points out, Derrick-sama’s shoulder twitch. It seems he was right.

“Commander, you won’t be able to eat the Cream Bread at the moment.”

“What!?”

“That’s only given. It takes time to make bread.”

Callan-sama has a reasonable opinion, but.....

“Ah~..... you may be able to... eat it?”

“Oh?”

I have asked Road-san to make a lot of bread yesterday, after all. Of course, I requested him to make some Cream Bread.

I think it should have been done soon~ Surely.

## **Chapter 36**

Swimmingly

I have accompanied Derrick-sama and Risner-sama to the Gold Wheat’s Shop.

Callan-sama stayed back to gather information. Nothing was said to Wald-sama. Riser-sama said “If he gets to know, he will definitely escape from work to tag along”..... Ah, right.

When we entered the shopping street, Allen and Elena added strength to the hands they were holding me with.

The two watched their surroundings with vigilance. It’s not often that the two who can detect presences unconsciously “look for something” with their own eyes.

There are no “fear” or “hate” emotions on their faces, but that thing from yesterday probably stirred things that are deeply rooted in the innermost depths of their hearts.

I must urgently think of something to divert them from thinking about this.....

When we enter the Gold Wheat's Shop the bread has just finished baking as Road-san was just taking it out of the oven.

Yep, smells nice~

"Road-san, excuse me for the intrusion."

"Ou Takumi, you have co... me..... eeh!?"

Road-san notices the Knights who have entered behind me and he got so surprised he almost dropped the bread. Then "If you are about to bring big shots, inform me beforehand!" he said.

Ah, yes, I'm sorry. I also thought similarly just a while ago. However, they suddenly wanted to come to the store, so I didn't have a choice~

"This is the Knight Commander Derrick-sama. He's the son of the Lauren Household."

"W, what!? La, Lauren house!! F, feudal lord's son!!?"

First, I introduce Derrick-sama and Risner-sama to Road-san. Then, knowing Derrick-sama's identity, Road-san was very nervous around the feudal lord's son.

I see, this is the normal reaction.....

Somehow, I'm ignorant of social status in Aetherdia. I was originally brought up on Earth where social positions are not so different, but the knowledge about this world implemented in me was with Syl's specifications, so it makes me lump all "people" together.

Therefore, even when talking to a noble, I don't feel much obligated.

Well, I think there won't be any problems if I speak politely, but..... how it really is? There weren't any problems until now so it's all right I think?

"Road-san, is the Cream Bread baked yet?"

"O, ou. It's done....."

"Hou. So this is the Cream Bread~"

"Derrick-sama, please have some."

"Ou, sorry about that. Lemme see.....——"

When the finished Cream Bread is finished, Derrick-sama receives it and immediately bites in.

When I asked Risner-sama if he also wants to eat, Of course, I will have some too he answered.

"Ohh, delicious!!"

Derrick-sama seemed to like the Cream Bread very much and ate it all.

"By the way, what is that? I have not seen this in any store before."

"This is something new Takumi told me to make....."

"What!? New product!"

Derrick-sama quickly finds a new product and stared at it fixedly.

The person who made it, Road-san, probably haven't even sampled it yet. He seemed very interested but kept his attitude firm in front of Derrick-sama and Risner-sama.

Risner-sama wasn't staring as Derricks-sama, but he also looked interested.

Actually, I found a red bean that is similar to the adzuki bean. After immersing that red bean in water overnight, I boiled it in a nectar liquid... gum syrup? No, I boiled it in an even thinner watery sap of trees with sugar and created a red bean paste.

The nectar liquid is even easier to obtain than sugar, I thought Road-san could use that instead, and it turned out well.

I handed the red bean paste to Raod-san and asked him to wrap it just like the Cream Bread and bake it.

It turned out delicious if I say myself. The sweetness is perfect.

After that, we also made bread containing Cyan fruit and bright yellow walnuts called Kuru nuts with millet bread as a base.

"This one is Anpan. Another one is millet bread with Cyan fruit and Kuru nuts mixed in."

They have just eaten the Cream bread, but Derrick-sama and Risner-sama immediately ate the new products.

Yep. These also received a favorable review.

When I handed half of the Anpan each to Allen and Elena, they ate it deliciously.

There are relatively many people who don't like red bean paste, but these members seem not to have that problem.

Incidentally, I like both Tsubuan[Tsubuan (ツブ), whole red beans boiled with sugar but otherwise untreated] and Koshian[Koshian (コシ合), beans passed through a sieve to remove bean skins; the most common type]. I didn't make it this time, but I should definitely try making it later.

"My~ That was delicious."

The satisfied Derrick-sama asked Road-san 2-3 questions.

And then, because Derrick-sama hasn't fault any problem with Road-san's personality, he talked about the backing of the Gold Wheat's Shop.

Road-san who was bowing "Much grateful" suddenly looked at me and started complaining.

Eh, what, what? You didn't hear anything about this?

Well, I mean~ this is something that was suddenly decided on. Look~ This thing is good at manipulating nobles.

It's not my fault.

"Well then, we shall return and promptly move to smash that conceited fool~"

This person seriously came just to eat the Cream bread.....

Derrick-sama went back satisfied, parting after saying he will send a messenger from Lauren House later to formally arrange things.

Just in case, I give Risner-sama presents to hand them to Callan-sama who looked so envious and Wald-sama who is doing his best at working in the branch.

"Oi, Takumi!!"

"It's a course of events. I also didn't think it would end up like this."

Road-san approached me after Derrick-sama and Risner-sama left.

Ah~ I didn't tell Road-san that Derrick-sama is backing us up because of the Cream bread. Is he perhaps worried about collateral?

I should explain that properly.

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I was fully concerned about Allen and Elena after throwing all the difficult things aside. I hug them close more than necessary and pat their heads. I'm affectionate to them to their heart's content.

As a result, Allen's and Elena's condition almost returned back. Almost as they were before meeting the slave trader.

""Yummy~""

"Is that so? I'm glad~"

The thing the two are eating now is a fruit jelly.

Of course, I made it.

The ingredient is this.

□□□□

Slime Jelly

Slime remains. Squishy object.

Not harmful to the human body, but has no benefits either.

Vulnerable to heat, melts when warmed up.

□□□□□

It's a drop item from the slimes we defeated in the Dungeon of Earth.

There's a lot, I should make something out of this~ I thought.

It's called "jelly" and it's not harmful to the human body so let's make jelly. I tried making it with such simple thinking.

I heated fruit juice in the pot, melted the slime jelly inside, then I poured it into glasses where it splendidly solidified. The slime jelly played the role of gelatin wonderfully.

The ratio of two liters of liquid to 1 slime jelly, had a good feeling.

The texture is much more squishy than that of a traditional jelly, but that's also good!

I tried making it only with fruit juice at first, but I tried making it with various fruit compotes after that. Starting with Ranka fruit's juice, Riigo fruit's juice, milk, black tea..... I made it with everything I could think of.

I was so absorbed in the making, that I unnoticeably amassed a mountain of jelly. Ah~... it's not like it will go bad, there's no problem since it will become Allen's and Elena's snack from now on, right?

After several days of doing that, all the problems in question were put in order.

Well~ it was quicker than I expected~

An investigation on the Gist Company under the Callan-sama has started, but well~ that slave trader was mistreating his slaves, and his business was suspended right after getting exposed. Then, the house search by the Knights was performed.

It came out, it came out! A Large amount of evidence on backroom deals has been found.

There was also an account book for transactions with Baron Gilbert.

Baron Gilbert apparently used Gist Company for human trafficking. There apparently were many people in the company's underground cells that weren't slaves.

That being the case, a shred of evidence against Baron Gilbert was found, and investigations on the House of Baron Gilbert have begun.

The baron seems to have done other backroom deals than human trafficking like camouflaging of branded goods, etc. It appears that documents about the products and contracts were kept carefully in a secret warehouse in the Baron's basement.

Baron Gilbert seemingly hid his crimes well, but his connections to the Gist Company became apparent. Following on the Gist Company, they were able to pull Baron Gilbert skillfully in and I was invited to the Commander Derrick's office where I received words of gratitude.

The Gist Company's slave trader was sent to the mines and Baron Gilbert was sent together with the evidence to the Royal Capital.

Although I expected this, Baron Gilbert will certainly be punished by imprisonment and deprivation of his rank. He apparently may even receive capital punishment. Furthermore, it seems his family members supported him, so they will be made into crime slaves.

They really are getting what they deserve!

I felt refreshed, and the daily peaceful life returned.

## **Chapter 37**

Departure

"With this, we can go on a journey without any worries."

"What!?" "Haa!?" "N?" "Oh?"

In order, Derrick-sama, Wald-sama, Callan-sama, and Risner-sama.

All of them let out silly voices because of my announcement.

Are? Did I not tell them before?

"Takumi, are you leaving Shirin?"

"Yes. I actually wanted to leave earlier, but I was concerned about the matter with Baron Gilbert."

At least, I wanted to resolve the matter with the Gold Wheat's Shop before going on a journey.

I think that if the problem were only the slave trader, I would quickly leave the town. It would look like running away, but dealing with fellows like that is troublesome.

I think it was good that all the problems got settled as a result.

"Have you decided on your destination?"

"I thought about going south towards the sea."

"I see... so you are staying in the country..."

When I said that I'm "Going south", the four people made expressions of relief.

Is that it? Do they want to keep human resources in the country?

In a case of emergency, the magnitude of the damage will change depending on the available fighting power. It must be something that Knights must consider at all times.

“The south, is it? Which means, Bailey?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

The destination has been pretty much decided on the port Bailey on the Southwest of Guardia.

The season is already a complete summer. It’s all about the sea when it comes to summer, right?

I thought about showing the sea to Allen and Elena.

Ordinary people would travel from town to town, and it would take at least a month by carriage to arrive. If that would be the case, summer would already be at its final stage, so I intend to ride Joule and others, that way we can expect to arrive in a few days.

Because of that, there’s no need to hesitate.

“Takumi-san, here.”

“A letter? Risner-sama, this is?”

Risner-sama hands me a single letter.

Hearing our destination, Risner-sama borrowed tools from Callan-sama and wrote it on the spot.

“It’s a letter of introduction to the feudal lord of Bailey.”

“Eh!?”

To think it was for the feudal lord-sama!?

I inadvertently retracted the hand I was about to receive the letter with.

“Bailey’s feudal lord is my acquaintance. I will contact him so definitely visit him when you arrive in Bailey. I don’t mind if you force him to support bakery, etc.”

“Eeh!?”

Not “rely on” but “I don’t mind if you force him”..... What are you saying! As expected, something like that is not possible.

Risner-sama continues to present me the letter while grinning.

Ah~ the well-prepared smile..... it’s not something I can go against~

I look around asking for help, but as expected no one wants to help me. If I had to say they have a “receive it” feeling.

I decided to accept it gratefully.

Even so, I have no intention of forcing my troubles on him. Let's rely on him only when in a difficult situation.

I may ask him to support the bakery, though.....

After finishing my business with the Knights, I visited the Adventurer's Guild, Roads-san, and the Inn to say goodbye.

When I said we are leaving, everyone was surprised. We were detained at the Adventurer's Guild.

Luna-san particularly had a very sorrowful look on her face, she looked like she would start clinging to me at any moment.

It must be because I'm an important supplier of material from Gaya Forest. I feel slightly empty inside that there was no love element involved.....

The next morning was an ideal day for the departure.

We departed from Shirin and soon walked off the highway. After confirming that there are no people around, I summoned my Contracted beasts.

"Waffu." "Gau." "Pii."

The three immediately nestle close to me.

"Oh~ there, there."

I could hardly summon the Contracted beasts before. They may be sulky that it took so long to call them.

First of all, I decided to pat them to their heart's content.

After the three animals had been satisfied to a certain degree, I conveyed the calling matter.

"Joule and Feat will transport us."

"Waffu." "Gau."

"Bolt will fly in the sky and keep track of human presences."

"Pii."

As the three replied in acknowledgment, I promptly seated Allen and Elena on Joule and climbed on Feat's back myself.

I told Joule and Feat to start running along Gaya Forest.

Just in case, I had Bolt to fly up and watch from above.

Like that, it's less probable to meet people. I can't help but think that meeting with people would be troublesome.

I imagine riding on S-Rank monsters would make a ruckus. Therefore, just in case.

Sometimes, a monster emerges from within Gaya Forest. Then, Joule and Feat would lower us down and go to defeat it.

My~ Our kids are strong. They defeat most of the opponents in a single blow. As expected of S-Rank monsters. How reliable.

Moreover, they return bringing the defeated monsters in their mouths, how considerable.

""Good child~""

Allen and Elena praise Joule and Feat who returned from the hunt. Good child, good child, they pat their heads.

Even if Allen and Elena stand on their tiptoes, they are not able to reach Joule's and Feat's heads. Because of that, Joule and Feat lower their heads to make it easier.

It's little clumsy, but a heartwarming scene.

"Waffu." "Gau."

"Hah~! Wait a moment!!"

After having their heads patted, this time Joule and Feat tried to lick Allen's and Elena's faces back, so I stop them in panic.

"Joule, Feat, don't lick!! Haven't you just bite on the Bloody Bear!? Your mouths are bloody!!"

"Waffu!?" "Gau!?"

Joule and Feat stiffen with a twitch.

What!? ..... they look at me with such expression.

You are really easy to understand, but I can't help but think you are not beasts.....

"Look, I will make you neatly clean so don't move. Washing."

"Waffu!" "Gau!"

""Ukya~""

The moment Joule and Feat became clean they started licking Allen's and Elena's faces.

Ah, they pushed Allen and Elena down.....

O~i. Be careful not to squash them~

Seeing such situation, Bolt cries "Pii" on top of my shoulder. For some reason, it felt like he was saying... good grief.

Because Allen and Elena are having fun I didn't stop them, just moved closer in case Joule and Feat will start crushing them.

""Unya~""

"Waffu~" "Gau~"

"Uoh!"

While playing with each other, the two children and two animals suddenly charged at me.

It's okay if it's just Allen and Elena, but as expected I won't be able to catch two big animals. In short, I have been pushed down.

Ah, Bolt has evacuated.....

The two children and two animals looked with a joyful expression of success.

"You~"

First, I tickle Allen and Elena who fell on me with all my might.

After that, I got up and rubbed Joule's and Feat's cheeks.

""Ukya~""

"Waffuu~" "Gauu~"

Oh my? You are happy?

I intended to do that as punishment, but it looks like I was unsuccessful.

But oh~ well.

In the end, we played until all of us were satisfied.

## **Chapter 38**

To the Sea

Because we are not traveling in a hurry, I have decided to go in the Gaya Forest to exercise.

Unlike the last time hunting where Joule and Feat used their claws and fangs, they use magic to kill monsters.

Joule covers the dead bodies around with ice magic Freeze into one large lump of ice. Feat uses the wind magic Float to make the lump of ice fly and brings it to my side.

Skillful. And clever..... they are learning properly.

When they were fighting at close range, I had no choice but to clean them with my Washing.

Well, it's alright, though. It's not magic that consumes much of magical power.

..... It's just, those fellows won't get satisfied unless they can lick after each battle..... Well, it makes Allen and Elena happy so..... oh well?

We loiter around the forest and hunt.

Then, before I notice, the children and the Contracted beasts compete at monster hunting.

When a monster is found, all members charge, defeat the monster, bring it to me, get patted by me.

That is the course of events.

Once in a while, Bolt would Thunderbolt a monster from the sky the moment he finds it. When that happens, the two children and the other two animals look really vexed.

"Whoa!!"

When they are feeling down because they couldn't get praised, I pat them with the intention of consoling, and they jump into action again.

You guys, calm down a bit~

As the area became dark, I have decided to leave Gaya Forest for the camp.

Riding on Joule and Feat, we can get out quickly, and the outside of Gaya Forest is safe.

When the camping site is decided, we have dinner next.

"Allen, Elena. What would you like to eat?"

""N..... Cream!""

Because both Allen and Elena love Cream bread, it frequently ends up as their snack of choice.

But, making Cream bread as a dinner menu is a bit..... I would like them to choose something more nutritious.

"N~ Allen, Elena. Cream bread is not good for dinner..... How about having it tomorrow as breakfast snack?"

""Ye~s."""

"Let's see..... How about Oyakodon? The one with an egg on rice."

""Will eat~""

"It's decided then."

Although it felt like I have incited them, because the two obediently accepted the compromise plan, Oyakodon has been chosen for the dinner.

"Joule, Feat, and Bolt want meat, right? Raw?"

"Waffu~u."

"N? No? Grilled is better?"

"Waffuwaffu."

"I see. Joule wants it grilled. Does Feat also prefer it grilled?"

"Gaun."

"What about Bolt?"

"Piiii."

The Contracted beast fundamentally don't require feeding. Apparently, when Contracted beasts are supplemented with magical power while in their master's shadow which restores their energy.

However, because they can eat, they are having a meal together with us like this.

Because of that, I have asked them what they want to eat, but it seems my Contracted beasts like grilled meat better than raw.....

Raw meat? They shook their heads when I asked.

Grilled meat tastes better. Looks like they have the same opinion as people.

These children seem to enjoy "food" with a strong taste more.

Grilled meat or Oyakodon, which is better? When asked, all three choose the latter. It seems the same menu as ours is better.

Even if I were going to make just one serving, it wouldn't be much trouble to make more. Therefore, I have decided to make Oyakodon for six.

Aren't spring onions bad for felines? Is what I thought, but since there seems to be no problem, I cook the onions and guineafowl with soy sauce and finish it up with half boiled egg.

"Well then, itadakimasu."

""Itadakima~shu."" "Waffu." "Gau." "Pii."

Yep, delicious!

I must say that finishing Oyakodon with a half boiled egg dripping on top of it is delicious.

Allen and Elena also eat while stuffing their mouths with spoons with utmost effort.

I have served the food for Joule and others on a plate to make it easier for them to eat, but Bolt is dexterously using his beak while Joule and Feat stuff their mouths around the plate in their small forms.

Apparently, they can enjoy the taste more while in their small forms.

Well, if they eat in their adult forms, they would eat it in two or three bites after all.

“Joule.”

“Waffu.”

When it was time to sleep, Joule’s stomach became a substitute for the cushion for the three of us. Joule’s fur is soft and comfy.....

Today is Joule’s turn, but because it has been decided that the cushioning role will alternate, it’s Feat’s turn tomorrow.

I thought it was bad to treat them as cushions at first, but rather it was the other way around.

Joule’s tail was intensively hitting the ground as if saying quickly over here.

Because it doesn’t look like I have to hold back, I lean against Joule while asking Feat and Bolt to stand guard.

That being said, Feat and Bolt are in resting postures next to us. Every single of my children is sensitive to presences after all. There won’t be any problems.

Ah, the moons...

Aetherdia has three moons. Yellow, blue, and red. Three colored moons rise into the sky.

Which reminds me, this is my first time camping in a place where the sky is clearly visible. Sky can’t be seen from within Gaya Forest, then there was the dungeon.

A night sky after a long time.

Gazing at several moons, I realize again that this is a different world.

Has it been a little over a month since I came to Aetherdia?

So many things happened so fast... I fall asleep while thinking such.

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I have decided to go to Gaya Forest the next day too.

Allen, Elena, Joule, and others apparently haven’t played sufficiently yet.

We are gathering medicinal plants today.

“There~”

“Many~”

"There really are many....."

Ah~ Demon Spirit Grass.

Maryoku Grass is relatively common, but Demon Spirit Grass should have been a valuable medicinal plant.....

Because Gaya Forest itself is a place full of magic, does it grow densely here?

And to find a place where they grow en masse at that.....

"Waffu."

This time, Joule seems to have found something.

It's a Soul Grass..... quite a rare medicinal plant again..... I'm sure it's used as nostrum.

"Gau."

The next one is Feat, huh. This is Touka Grass.

Because its leaves are transparent, it's quite difficult to find plant.....

Nose? Did Feat find it by smell?

"Pii."

Ah, Bolt has found Minsu fruit.

Minsu, in fact, is a plum-like fruit. It's bigger than typical plum, it's very sour, but its nutritional value is high, it's used for medicinal tonics as it has nourishing properties.

There seem to be quite a lot on the tree. Bolt drops it with his beak, and I catch it when it falls.

Nevertheless, aren't we finding quite a lot of rare things in high demands?

""Ah!""

Allen and Elena seem to have found something again as they run towards a tree.

Now then, what did they find this time?

Moving while sufficiently playing along the way, we finally saw a sea a week later after leaving Shirin.

It can be said we moved at quite a high pace to arrive in just a week.

"Allen, Elena, that is the sea."

""Sea~ Big~""

Allen and Elena gaze at the sea with sparkling eyes.

""Water, a lot~""

"That's right. All of that is salty water."

""Delish~?""

"It's not tasty? You shouldn't drink it."

""Ye~s.""

I had to say it because they would drink the water as soon as arriving at the beach.  
Like this, they won't probably drink it.

We immediately stepped onto the beach.

The beach without any man-made objects is quiet with the only roaring of the waves resounding.

While Allen and Elena are playing at the water's edge——

"That... may I ask if you are Takumi-sama?"

"..... You are?"

Suddenly, I was spoken to by a woman who emerged from the sea.

Umm... why do you know my name?

"I'm Mirena of the mermaid tribe."

Haa!? Say what!?

## **Chapter 39**

Mermaid

"..... You are?"

"I'm Mirena of the mermaid tribe."

".....!"

Seriously!? A mermaid she says!!

When I appraise her in a rush——

□□□

Status

Name: Mirena

Race: Mermaid

Occupation: —

Age: 26

Level: 17

## Skills

- Spearmanship
- Water Magic
- Dismantling
- Night Vision
- Detection
- Swimming
- Cultivation
- Cooking
- Singing
- Mental Status Resistance

…………

Whoa~ it's true. Her race is Mermaid.

This woman is without a doubt a mermaid. Only her upper body is visible, so I can only see an ordinary human woman.

As expected, diving under the sea to confirm would be rude, but does this woman has a tailfin as expected?

It's a mermaid! I want to confirm right away, but patience. Patience.....

"Why do you know about me?"

"I was informed about you by Water God's retainer-sama."

Haa? From Water God's retainer-sama?

First, I confirmed how does the mermaid woman know about me, but an unexpected answer has come back.

..... Just what is going on?

"Come again, the Water God's retainer-sama has....."

"I have been advised that you would be able to solve a problem we are facing. Takumi-sama, could I request your assistance, please?"

What's with that..... just what did the Water God's retainer-sama say to these people?

In addition to that, Mirena-sam must have been informed beforehand that we will come here.

"Umm..... assistance you say....."

"For the details, we have to go to our village. Could we move there first?"

Mirena-san asks while deeply bowing her head.

If you ask me like that, there's no way I could reject, but.....

"No, no, wait a moment. Your village is definitely under the sea, right? Even if we can swim, we won't be able to go there."

Because we won't be able to breathe.

Rather, in the first place, can I swim? In the past..... of course, I could swim!

Well, I know the method of swimming itself so if it's the present body I feel like I could do it. My motor nerves have exceptionally improved after all.

Regarding Allen and Elena, I think that they would immediately master swimming if shown. We are talking about those two after all.....

But, even if they were able to swim, as expected it would not be possible for them to breathe underwater. No..... I have a feeling that they would be able to stay underwater for quite a lot of time because of an outrageous lung capacity.....

But even that would not allow us to stay underwater for a longer period of time.

"I am prepared in regard of that."

".....?"

"..... Please wait for a moment."

When I was lost in my thoughts, Mirena-san takes something out and presents it to me.

U~n..... what's that?

Silver... I wonder? I can see a looped string-like thing sitting in Mirena-san's palm, but..... I don't know what that is.

Because we are at the water's edge and Mirena-san in the sea, there's a subtle distance between us.

When I tilt my head, Mirena-san lets the thing in her hand float on the sea's surface. It gets jolted by the waves and slowly drifts to us little by little.

It didn't feel like the waves were natural, was it manipulated by Water magic?

When I pick up the floating thing, it was a bracelet. With an engraved thin curious pattern. It feels hard on touch, but it's not a mineral? What is it?

I thought it was silver, but it looks iridescent because of the reflections. A mysterious color.

I couldn't figure anything out just by looking so I appraise it straight away.

□□□□

Mermaid Bracelet

A bracelet made with the scales of a mermaid.

A magic tool that allows breathing under water.

In addition, it wraps the entire body in a thin film, preventing clothes from getting wet.

…………

Oo, a fantastic magic tool has appeared.

Certainly, with something like this, there won't be any problems with breathing.

I had a feeling it's not made from minerals like iron or gold, but the material was actually scales of a mermaid! Indeed, I didn't expect that.

The mysterious color is related to mermaid scales. It's convincing then

"We will certainly be all right with this."

"Then!?"

A delightful expression floats on Mirena-san's face.

"I would like to see the Mermaid village, so I don't mind going, but..... I may not be able to resolve your problem, you know?"

"That does not matter! Please come by all means!"

I'm not sure I can help because I didn't hear the details.

Should I have asked first? But, she told she would explain in detail in the village so.....

But, the Water God's retainer-sama gave a seal of approval, so it's probably not something too difficult. And even if I'm not successful, looking at Mirena-san's reaction, I won't get blamed either.

Following in itself is an introduction to the Water God's retainer-sama. A person(?) who is worried about Allen and Elena. They wouldn't let the twins approach something dangerous. There shouldn't be any problem.

"Then, I will borrow this bracelet."

"No, I offer that to you. Please think of it as a fee for going to the village. Of course, if you have problem with that, we will prepare a different remuneration in the village."

"No, no, this is something precious, right!?"

"There are people engaged in magic tools in the village, so quite a number of them exist. To begin with, this magic tool is necessary in order to enter the village, so please accept it without reservation."

I thought it's a valuable magic tool, but this bracelet apparently isn't that valuable to the mermaids.

Because the material is the scales of mermaids, they probably don't lack materials to make it.....

Well, that. If she says to take it, I will take it.

I retrieve Joule and others who were guarding around the sandy beach to my shadow and put on the bracelets on Allen's and Elena's arms. Then, I put one on myself, hold the two's hands and enter the sea.

When the depth of water reached my shin, I tried raising my leg from the water.

Oo, it really didn't get wet. This is incredible!

My clothes and boots are totally dry. I'm deeply moved by the performance of this magic tool.

It allows breathing underwater, but there are no problems yet, so it's possible to use it on the surface too? If I put it on a rainy day, I won't get wet?

It looks like this magic tool can be used for something it wasn't originally made for. I obtained something good~

When we reached a certain depth, I timidly tried to dive in a while holding Allen's and Elena's hands.

"!"

Oh my~ how exciting~

Even though I know that I can breathe without problems, I can't help it but be nervous about the first breath, right?

"Is everything all right?"

"Y, yes. Everything's fine."

Breathing aside, talking underwater is also a strange feeling.

However, it's so amusing!

My heart is throbbing experiencing something I never did before.

Allen and Elena also seem to be enjoying themselves underwater.

Breathing is alright, the next one would be swimming.....

"Ah~ ... Allen, Elena... are you okay?"

""Fun~""

"I see....."

Yep, there doesn't seem to be a problem.

When I release their hands, the two are normally swimming.

I knew. This development is exactly as I imagined!

Still, isn't this too fast!? They are already... smoothly swimming, you know!!

Ah~ Since the two are alright, I will try to swim too.

I position my body horizontally, extend my arms and flap with my legs.

Breaststroke? Crawl? I somehow know the form, but I never have done it before, though!

From time to time, I move my hands to paddle the water and move forward.

Oo, is this okay? I am swimming properly..... I think.

Umm..... like this? Then, like this..... oo? I am swimming?!

I tried breaststroke for a trial, I was able to do it. I wasn't able to do it in the slightest in the past..... I'm a bit happy.

Ah! Right, the mermaid!

I was too absorbed in trying to swim so I did not check the thing about Mirena-san.

When I look at Mirena-san again, it was the same as the illustrations that appear in fantasy novels and manga, the upper body of a woman in a bikini and the lower body of a fish.

The scales of the lower part of the body went from light red to dark red, it gets darker as you go from the waist to the tailfin, a beautiful gradation.

"Ah~... I have kept you waiting. Everything's fine now."

Crap. While observing in a trance, my eyes matched Mirena-san's.

Mirena-san was quietly watching over us while we were learning to swim..... she's smiling for some reason.....

I approached Mirena-san and told her that everything is fine now and we can move.

"I understand. Then, let's depart."

"Ah, yes. Allen, Elena. Let's go~"

""Ye~s""

We start swimming after Mirena-san who is guiding us to her village.

## **Chapter 40**

Undersea Stroll and Request

"Allen, Elena, you alright~?"

""Al~right""

“Don’t get too far away, okay?”

“”Ye~s””

Although unfamiliar to swimming, Allen and Elena keep on swimming without any problems.

Moreover, they can swim at such speed I thought they had a propeller attached.

A world record is not a problem.

There is a big difference between them and myself who is still swimming somewhat awkwardly. I should get quickly used to it.....

“Mirena-san, what kind of monsters are around here?”

“The monster around here are mainly Sand Crabs and Bomb Shelters, they are not that strong. When we get a little bit deeper, more powerful monsters will appear, but..... the most troublesome among them would be probably the Giant Killer Shark.”

Giant Killer Shark... a C-Rank monster.

Although it's C-Rank, will it be okay since we are not used to the underwater combat?

“Ah, that’s Hammerfish.”

While speaking about monsters that appear in the vicinity, it appeared at once.

Hammerfish is an E-Rank monster.

A monster of Bluefin tuna size with the point of its head shaped like a hammer. It's not that dangerous monster if you pay attention to its head which it uses as a blunt weapon.

“”Yaa!””

Ah, Allen and Elena swim at superspeed and kick it.

Yeah, that’s instant death.

It seems that being underwater doesn’t hinder Allen and Elena one bit. Rather, I feel like their attack power and speed is better than on the surface.

If one is a relative of the Water God, is the underwater combat his specialty?

“Onii~chan.”

“Fish~”

“Thank you.”

Allen and Elena return with the Hammerfish by holding it by its hammer part.

“”Ah. ””

After the two hand me the Hammerfish, they notice a monster again.

N~ The one who appeared seems to be the Sand Crab.

It's about 6~70cm tall counting its shell. It will be even taller if it extends its legs, though.

"Weird~!"

"Is coming~!"

Until now, their opponents were only animal and insect type monsters, so seeing fish and crustacean type monsters for the first time gets Allen and Elena in high spirits.

"Be careful of the claws. Don't get hurt okay~"

""Ye~s.""

I remind the two who swam towards the crab right after discovering it to be careful.

It would be dangerous if they get caught by the crab's claws..... —Is what I thought, but it looks like I didn't have to worry.

The two quickly defeat the Sand Crab and return while each holding one of its claws.

""This, what is it~?""

"Sand Crab. It's a crab."

""Crab~?""

"It's delicious when boiled. Would you like to eat it next time?"

""Will eat~!""

Sand Crab's raw meat itself is gritty, but it seems to be delicious when heated.

It's alright to eat it as is, but when it comes to crab, it's a Kani Nabe after all! It's out of season, but it doesn't matter, right?

Let's make it immediately once we return to the surface!

After that, Allen and Elena crisply defeated all monsters which appeared.

Mirena-san who saw Allen and Elena defeat the monsters one by one says in amazement with her eyes blinking.

"..... They are strong, aren't they?....."

"Hahaha~....."

Yep, I tried to laugh it off for the time being.

◇ ◇ ◇

About two hours after diving into the sea.

"Wha!?"

"Welcome and thank you for coming. This is our village."

Suddenly, something like a blue crystal appeared in front of me. The size is of a small mountain.

Even though the scenery was just a mere seascape until a while ago..... Which reminds me, I just passed through something like a thin membrane.

Camouflage? Some kind of illusion barrier?

"What have we passed through just now?"

"You have noticed? It's as you guess. An illusion that makes it look like nothing is there and a barrier which prevents monsters to invade. Two barriers are set up here."

"Since we have entered it means that humans are able to enter?"

"Even if it's humans, they won't be able to enter. It's possible to enter only if they go together just like us."

I see. If Mirena-san weren't with us, we wouldn't be able to pass through the barrier.

Nevertheless, just what is this crystal-like thing.....

□□□□

Sea Crystal

A crystal that the sea itself crystallized into.

Conceals the power of the sea.

□□□□

"..... Sea Crystal?"

"Yes, that's right. Because this is the Blue Sea, we all call it the Blue Waters Shrine."

Because I see people coming in and out of the Sea Crystal, the crystal itself must be the residence..... It's probably something like the Mermaid Castle.

The semitransparent blue crystal has the appearances of a simple castle. If I had to say, the blue crystal looks more like a mountain than a castle.

However, it has a very magical, overwhelming aura.

Blue Waters Shrine..... This can only be called "incredible."

"Sparkly~"

"Pretty~"

"Yeah. It's very pretty."

"Fufufu. Thank you very much. I will guide you inside later, but could you follow me to the back of the Blue Waters Shrine first, please?"

"Ah, yes."

After a while of gazing at the Blue Waters Shrine, Mirena-san guided us to the back of the Blue Waters Shrine.

There is a rock face in the back, behind the Blue Waters Shrine, but——

"I would like you to do something about this."

"A ship?"

There is a fairly large ship at the place where Mirena-san guides us to.

It beautifully sunk between the rock face and the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine.

"There is an entrance to the cave where we raise corals, but as you can see it has been blocked by this ship. The people of the village gathered to do something about it before, but we weren't able to move it even an inch..... While greatly perplexed what to do, the Blue Waters Shrine's lord, Miko Princess received an oracle."

The ship fell exactly right between.

There are almost no gaps between the rock face and the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine.

If the ship was slightly bigger it wouldn't block the entrance and if it was slightly smaller, the mermaids would be able to move it themselves.

Iya~ It fits in perfectly.

Indeed, it's possible for me to remove it. After all, I just have to put it in the Infinite Storage.

"I can remove this immediately."

I approach the sunken ship and store it in the Infinite Storage.

When I confirm the Infinite Storage list, the sunken ship (Dietlinde model) was properly showing up.

The Dietlinde model seems to be a cargo ship as many barrels, and wooden boxes were collected together.

Well, I would have to check the boxes one by one as I don't know what's inside.

What to do with this? It's sunk into the sea, and the boxes are soaked wet.

It depends on the objects, but I expect most of them being ruined.

What should I do if it's food?

It wouldn't be spoiled, but it would definitely be in a totally terrible condition..... I don't want to check the contents.....

U~n..... for the time being, let's leave it like that.

Nevertheless, as there were no dead bodies, the sailors must have been able to escape before the ship sunk.

As expected, I would feel awkward carrying people's corpses in the Infinite Storage.

"Is it all right like this?"

Whoa!

When I turned around, other mermaids gathered beside Mirena-san before I noticed.

"Thank you very much!"

"It's nothing, rather than that, shouldn't you take a look at the coral?"

"That's right."

I see a cave entrance in the rock face, that must be it.

Mirena-san gives instructions to the other mermaids in a hurry and several people enter the cave.

"Is that coral an important one?"

"Yes. It's used as the ingredient in various medicines. Especially us, mermaids, need a specific medicine to cure illness, therefore we can't afford to lose that coral."

That is very important then.

I'm certain that corals..... inhabit only places with clear water?

I don't know when the ship sunk, I hope it didn't wither away.....

"Fortunately, not much time passed since the ship sunk, so there wasn't much damage done. You have really saved us."

"Is that so? I'm glad I could be of help."

Unexpectedly, the ship seems to have sunk only a few days ago.

Although I wouldn't be blamed, I would not be able to bear it if the coral got destroyed.

"Well then, Miko Princess is waiting, let me guide you there."

Next is the meeting with Princess, huh~ She said that she's the Lord of the Blue Water Shrine, right?

Now then, what kind of person is she?

## **Chapter 41**

Miko Princess and Reward

The atmosphere in the Blue Waters Shrine overflows with “harmony.”

Magic tools shaped as lanterns are illuminating the path, the grid windows, and the bridge railing gives off a feeling of the old capital, Kyoto.

“Miko Princess, I have brought Takumi-sama, Allen-sama, and Elena-sama.”

“Please, enter.”

We were guided to the most inner part of the Blue Waters Shrine where the Miko Princess is.

There is a light-blue haired girl in her teens and an elderly man inside the spacious room.

Is this girl the Miko Princess?

The gracefully smiling girl is wearing a celestial kimono, emitting an aura of a young princess.

“Takumi-sama, Allen-sama, Elena-sama. Welcome.”

“Umm..... Thank you very much for inviting us?”

“Fufufu. Please, do not be so stiff. Rather, we are the ones who should show respect to you.”

“Eh!?”

Wait a moment! What do you mean?

I got startled by Miko Princess’s words.

Miko Princess is a great person in the Mermaid Tribe, right? Why should a person like that show respect to me?

“I have heard that Takumi-sama is a benefactor of the Water God’s Retainer-sama.”

“Miko Princess, thanks to Takumi-sama, our problem have also been solved. I have other people checking the coral right at this moment.”

“I am really glad. Then, Takumi-sama is our benefactor, is he not?”

“That’s right.”

“No, that’s a little.....”

Hey, Water God’s Retainer-sama~ What kind of nonsense have you told them~~

Just how much have you told them? Surely, you didn’t expose my true identity, did you!?

“Err... I don’t know what you were told, but if you know that.....”

"Please, do not worry. Only the three of us here know about the Oracle I have received. Naturally, we will not reveal it."

"Thank you very much. Incidentally, what were you told....."

Just in case, I ask how much they know.....

"I have heard that Takumi-sama is a person of principles and a very kind person."

"..... Please, give me a break."

Is she talking about me!?

Just what have you told them~~ Please stop iiit~

"Fufu. You are exactly as Retainer-sama said."

.....  
I'm troubled..... I'm worried about what the Water God's Retainer-sama told Miko Princess, but I have a feeling that I don't want to know.....

"Miko Princess, Takumi-sama is troubled."

"Oh my, Gard. I am just telling the truth, there is no reason for Takumi-sama to be troubled."

"Then, you wouldn't mind if I tell him on the day of the first meeting with Miko Princess 'That I know Miko Princess very well. She's quite the tomboy' would you?"

The elderly man next to Miko Princess stops her.

On the contrary to my expectations of Miko Princess being a secluded Ojousama, it seems she's quite the tomboyish child..... Her appearances don't match her personality.

"..... Oh. Takumi-sama, please forgive us."

"No worries....."

"Right, right, I have not introduced you to Takumi-sama yet, did I? He is Gard, the Chief managing the mermaids living here."

"I'm the Chief, Gard. Thank you very much for today."

The man is apparently the Chief of mermaids. He's very good-natured-ish looking old man.

"Chief, is it? I heard that the Miko Princess is the Lord of Blue Waters Shrine, is Chief something different?"

"Yes. I am indeed the Lord of the Blue Waters Shrine, but Miko Princess is the so-called honorary position. The person with the most affinity with the God takes the place generation after generation. There's a different one for each clan."

Actually, there is no way to know the affinity with God, so abilities, etc. are unrelated. Miko Princess is a symbolic existence, a woman elected by the clan to become a holy individual.

Miko Princess mutters "I did not really want to do it because it is too stiff..." in a small voice.

If a tomboyish girl is her true nature, the current appearances of a graceful Miko Princess is an act.

She must have it tough.

"..... Being Miko Princess must be tough, huh?"

"Fufufu. That is right."

It seems she heard the words I unconsciously muttered.

Miko Princess agrees with a laugh.

"Right, right. We have to present the reward to Takumi-sama."

"Ah, that! In that case, wouldn't you teach us the way of using water magic?"

Talking about the reward, I asked about what was on my mind.

Right. I want to learn water magic.

Mermaids living underwater would know a thing or two about water magic, right?

"Water magic, is it? Certainly, most of the Mermaids can use it, but....."

"We possess the Water Magic skill, but I'm troubled because I can't use it well. The children have never used magic before....."

In fact, when we moved through the sea, I tried using water magic, but it didn't go well.

I tried shooting a low-level Water Ball, but it had no power. Splurt, just about a fistful of water spurted out.

Because I myself can't use it, I am not able to teach it to Allen and Elena.

"If that is the case, there is no problem. I will introduce you to a user who excels at teaching! However, the reward is separate."

"No, just teaching us is enough."

Even though I solved their problem, I just put the ship into the Infinite Storage.

I would be grateful for just being able to learn water magic.

"No, I request you to accept it. Although I said reward, it is something unnecessary for us..... Would you please look at it first?"

..... N? Unnecessary?

What does she mean?

Saying, please look at the goods first, Mirena-san guides us to the place where the reward is.

◇ ◇ ◇

“This way, please.”

“This is?”

The place I was guided to is a cave in the rock face in the rear of the Blue Waters Shrine. Inside the cave, there was a spacious room with a lot of things were piled up.

Seaweed in a shell?

Fish bones with some kind of stones?

There really was a lot of things. Moreover, a considerably large quantity of each.

昆布

Bracka seaweed

A medicinal plant inhabiting deep seas.

Because it has an effect of lowering temperature, it's used as a material for antipyretic and salves for burns treatment.

クジラ骨

クジラ骨

Bone of Giant Shark

Hard, but light bone.

Utilized as material for weapons.

貝殻

After appraising it, every seaweed and shells were materials for medicine. The bones can be used for making weapons.

“Everything has quite a value, you know?”

And yet they say that everything in here is part of the reward.

“This~”

“Wha~t?”

“Eh? Pearl!? Huge!”

Allen and Elena brought a golf ball-sized pearl. Looking carefully, a great amount of various sized pearls were rolling on the ground beside the two.

Not only big ones but also normal sized pearls that could be used to make necklaces. And they are just gorogoro on the floor.

White and black, purple, pink, yellow..... various colors.

This is my first time seeing so many pearls.

"To tell you the truth, this place is our garbage dump..."

Haa!? Garbage dump?

This all, are you saying this all is garbage!?

"When we pick something that sunk around the Blue Waters Shrine or the ocean floor, we put it here."

"Everything!? I mean, this is a pearl, you know?"

"That's a stone that comes from the edible shells, isn't it? The big ones come from Big Shells, but..... Either of them is not a magic stone, you know?"

"Pearl is a kind of a gem, you know?"

"Is that so? I like gems too, but I like the more sparkling and transparent ones better?"

"....."

Ofu..... these people recognize pearls that come out of shells as stones.

I see, I see now.....

Are? To the people of Aetherdia..... it's a gem, right? Without a doubt.

"It's as Retainer-sama said then, although it has no worth to us, it seems it's attractive stone to humans."

That's right. I'm really startled by your different sense of value.

"As you can see the place has become full..... Although we think it's rude to give something unnecessary to us as a reward, we would be much grateful if you received it....."

"....."

I have no words to say anymore.

Allen, Elena. Do you like that pearl? It seems we can take it, so I will.

## **Chapter 42**

Water Magic

In the end, I have decided to accept the various items in the cave that were presented to me as a reward.

Still, to consider those things garbage.....

I was in shock after looking at the Infinite Storage's item list.....

Tens of kinds of seaweed and shells used as medical materials. Even if the shell couldn't be used for medicine, it could be used as an ornament for accessories.

Fish bones, scales, and carapaces that could be processed into arms and tools. There were also some stone-like materials, but those are actually natural stones.

There were some scratches ones, but there was quite a lot of pearls~

Only a few percents of the garbage was "Unusable".

Despite receiving a significant amount of rewards, we would also receive magic guidance.

The mermaids took it as if we had disposed of their garbage, it seems they gladly accepted to teach us magic.

We have stayed a night at the Blue Waters Shrine that day, and it has been decided that we will get instructed in the water magic tomorrow.

Tomorrow.

We have come offshore to receive the instructions.

Because we have a lot of magical powers, after all. We have decided to receive the instructions far away from the Blue Waters Shrine in case we make a mistake.

And surprisingly, the one who is going to instruct us is the Chief of Mermaids, Gard-san himself! Gard-san came personally.

Gard-san apparently a person who teaches many mermaid children and it seems that even Miko Princess learned magic under him.

An ideal person to instruct us.

Gard-san starts teaching us immediately once we got above the surface.

"First of all, there are two ways to exercise magic. That is to manipulate and produce. I have heard that Takumi-sama is able to use wind magic. When you are using magic on the surface, that is manipulating. Earth magic is the same. But, water magic and fire magic have to be produced first. Let's assume first that you are using water magic in a waterless location."

I received guidance first, but..... I see~

So it's because I tried to use water magic the same way I use wind magic. The power was low because of that.

"Therefore, if you don't produce it first, Takumi-sama will end up using water magic with the wind magic method."

Precise identification of the problem.

I explained my circumstances to Gard-san yesterday so he could estimate why I am not able to use it.

"Conversely, trying to use wind magic underwater would not work well, would it?"

"Yes, that's right."

It became really simple after hearing the reason.

Well, right. I'm using wind magic in places where the wind drifts and water magic in places with no water. The amount of necessary magical power is different.

When I used water magic the last time, a fist-sized water besha... only a little came out.

""Water Pillar.""

I try to cast a spell as a test and a pillar of water shoots out of the sea.

Un, it's possible to use water magic in places with water just like wind magic.

"Magnificent. If Takumi-sama keeps in mind the producing step while on the surface, you shouldn't have any problems with water magic."

"Yes, let's see. Since I have grasped the trick, I will give it a try on the ground later."

Because there is water nearby.

Once we return to the ground, let's find a waterless place and practice.

Since my problem was settled, it's Allen's and Elena's turn next.

"I have heard that Allen-sama and Elena-sama haven't used magic yet. Therefore, I have decided to tell them about the flow of magical power first."

"By all means. Allen, Elena, come here."

"I will borrow your hands. I will pour my magical power now."

Gard-san takes Allen's and Elena's hands and sends in his magical power.

I see. You can pour your magical power into your partner to let him become aware of magical power.....

"Can you understand it?"

""Warm~?""

"It seems to be all right, then? That is magical power."

Magical power is warm.

Allen and Elena immediately perceived the magical power.

““Magical power~?””

“Yes, that’s right. That is the source of magic. There is also magical power within yourselves. Are you able to perceive that?”

““Hmm~?””

“Allen, Elena. Try searching for the warm inside your bodies.”

““Okay.””

Allen and Elena close their eyes and begin searching for the magical power.

Because magical power circulates through the whole body just like blood, so it’s essential to feel the flow.

I also stealthily feel for the magical power circulation.

..... Because magic was inserted in my body, the feeling of magical power is..... there’s practically nothing.

When I searched for it, I was unexpectedly able to feel it.

So this is magical power..... Un, it’s okay. I’m glad I am able to perceive it.

“Warm thing.”

“Found~”

It seems that Allen and Elena too were able to perceive magical power immediately.

“Looks like you have perceived it—— This will be a practice to control the magical power flow from now on. If the magical power is low, water won’t take shape, and on the contrary, if the amount of magical power is too high, the water burst out. Well then, Allen-sama, Elena-sama. Shall we give it a try?”

When Gard-san pours magical power into the ocean water he has scooped with his both hands, the water starts changing a shape little by little. This is apparently a practice in order to find the necessary amount of magical power to use.

Right. When using magic, using just the right amount of magical power is essential.

If you don’t, you will end up like me when I fought the Evil Viper.....

““Done~?””

“Allen, Elena. You are amazing for being able to do it on your first try~”

““Ehehe~?””

When Allen and Elena began to pour magical power in the seawater scooped by their both hands, a spherical water ball appeared immediately on their hands.

Because they raised the balls to show me their achievement, I stroke their heads while praising them.

"As expected~ It's quite difficult to get the hang of it, but being able to do it right away....."

"Does it usually take time?"

"Even the most capable children in the village take roughly half a day to produce a precise spherical shape. It can take even several days for unskilled children."

Un, hearing that it becomes clear that Allen and Elena are geniuses.

My kids are so amazing~

"Then, let's attempt casting Water Ball next. It would be better for Takumi-sama to show an example. May I ask you to target that rock?"

"Understood..... Water Ball."

The practical use of magical power seems to be next.

Although an example, "Can I do it?" flashed through my mind for a moment, I'm glad I was able to do it.....

Even if I could predict that I would be able to do it, I was worried about what to do if I failed.

""Water~ Ball~.""

Seeing me, Allen and Elena immediately follow and cast Water Ball too. A grand success, two water balls the size of a tennis ball fly towards the rock.

""Done~""

"Amazing, amazing! You two are so good~"

"So easily....."

In the end, all basics were taught in a few hours.

Because they were able to learn magic so quickly, Gard-san had a bitter smile. Normally, you wouldn't be able to master magic in a day after all.

Well~ but it's Allen and Elena after all. That must be it.

Gard-san returned to the Blue Water Shrine, and we have decided to practice magic for a little bit more. See, getting used to magic is important.

I also wanted to teach Allen and Elena some beginners magic.

Perhaps Water Arrow or Water Wall?

I won't teach them any big moves! It would be troublesome if they used it in public. That is my role!

I also must tell them not to use it without permission. If I don't, they might see someone use magic and start using it themselves.

""!!!!"

"What? What is wrong?"

While thinking about magic, Allen and Elena suddenly clung up to me.

Since I wasn't paying attention to the surroundings, I wanted to use Detection to figure out what's going on, but before I could do that, the sea started shaking.

"Whoa!!"

And then, something emerged from the sea while splashing water around.

I embrace Allen and Elena tightly, gulp while watching the high waves and appraise without delay.

□□□□

### **Status**

Name: —

Race: Leviathan

Occupation: —

Age: ???

Level: ???

### **Skills**

??? ???

?? ?? ??

????? ??

?????? ??????

?????? ??????

□□□□

Haa!? Leviathan!?

Moreover, the contents of its status are not visible!

## **Chapter 43**

Leviathan

What appeared looks like a multi-floor building or a tower..... No, is Leviathan a dragon?

—Ha, just by being there, I feel its overpowering intimidation. It's clearly a superior existence.

..... Will it attack... us?

As expected, I wouldn't want to get attacked by an S-rank monster.

Allen and Elena are not preparing to fight, so it's probably not hostile.

However, the two are clinging to me as if they have understood something.

(Fumu. I thought I sensed a different presence, so it was the Wind God-sama's retainer.....)

"Wha!?"

I, it spoke!?

Moreover, it felt like it was talking directly in my head, rather than hearing with my ears.

Also, how did I get exposed!?

(What are you surprised about? I can use the Appraisal. You can use it too, no?)

"Well..... I certainly can, but most of it wasn't visible."

I see. This Leviathan has an appraisal..... so it even took a look at my status.

(Fumu. How about now? Try looking one more time.)

As told, I use appraisal again.

□□□□

## **Status**

Name: —

Race: Leviathan (Water God's retainer)

Occupation: —

Age: 863

Level: 123

## **Skills**

- Water Magic
- ???
- Swimming
- ???
- Appraisal

- Presence Detection
- ???
- God ???
- Telepathy
- Physical Attack
- ???
- Magic
- ???
- Shock Resistance
- Uncommon Body
- ???
- Mental Status Resistance

## **Titles**

- Conqueror of the Seas

呵呵呵

Are? There are some things here and there that I can't see, but I can see a lot more than a little while ago.....

First, what is this about the Water God's retainer? Syl~ Haven't you told me that there are no other retainers on the surface beside me~

Over 800 years old..... astonishing.....

I think it's a male if I go by the sound of its voice, but I should not be assuming that.

And above all, the level! Its level has three digits!

The strongest individuals among humans should be around 50~60 level. And yet, the Leviathan is level 123..... Double the level.

And the conversation can be held thanks to the Telepathy skill?

How convenient. If I had this, I could probably talk to Joule and others.

..... Conqueror of the seas. There's nothing I can say about that.....

The hell is this status..... it's dangerous.

(How is it?)

"..... It's not all, but I can see it now. But, how?"

(That's because I loosened the magical power coat my body was wrapped in.)

"Magical power coat?"

(Umu. Living creatures unconsciously cover their bodies in magical power. They do it, no matter how weak they are. And the coat becomes thicker with the amount of magical power one possesses. My magical power is larger than yours. Therefore,

you couldn't see. Then, I intentionally weakened the magical power coat. That's why you were able to appraise me this time.)

I see..... Even if my magical power is high, the difference in levels will only add to the difference between our magical powers.

Therefore, I couldn't see it.

That means, even if a person has Appraisal skill, I won't have to worry that much about mine and the children's status being exposed?

Even the strong ones should have less magical power than us. If that's the case, we have to be careful of the races with great magical power like elves and demons.

Well, no matter in which race, Appraisal skill is rare, and people who possess them are scarce, so I don't have to be that careful, though. We just bumped into Leviathan this time.....

(Has your pondering finished?)

"Ah, yes! So, that..... you[□□ Anata - polite, neutral/genderless 'you']? are also a retainer?"

I tried to address it, but I remembered that this Leviathan does not have a name.

I was worried for a moment, but 'you' should be safe, right?

(Yes, are you unsure about how to address me? I do not have a name after all. You may call me as you want. Fumu... I won't mind letting you name me.)

No, no. I wasn't thinking for so long about how to call you, but about magical power and Appraisal.

Why it became a talk about naming!?

This, for now..... let's ignore it?

"..... I didn't know there was a retainer on the surface."

(There are not many, but there are. However, all of us, including myself, spend time by ourselves in remote areas.)

Ah, there are more retainers.

(Anyway, so the Water God-sama's children are the children from that time.)

"You know of these children? They are Water God-sama's children as expected....."

As I have expected, Allen and Elena are the Water God-sama's children.

The two's secret identities were revealed just like that.

(Mu? You didn't know?)

"I have somehow expected it, but I'm the Wind God-sama's person, so I wasn't told in detail. It concerned a stipulation between the gods or something."

(Ah, it would be like that at that person's place.)

"You know about it?"

(I'm sure you could see from my status, but I'm someone who is connected to the Water God-sama. I get the information. Besides, the children were born..... about a year ago? I was asked to protect the children.)

No..... it has been five years since Allen and Elena were born..... would it be better to not tsukkomi here?

Once you live for 800 years, your sense of time may become rough.....

"..... They weren't protected, though."

(Fumu. It's due to my refusal.)

"Eh!?"

(Entering the country to protect the children would cause a ruckus, after all.)

Ah, certainly.

Leaving aside if Leviathan were alright after leaving the sea, it would get noisy if it appeared on the land.....

(Even if I safely protected them, I wouldn't be able to raise human children. The children's state wouldn't change by much even if I protected them. Therefore, I chose the option which would cause less damage.)

As a matter of fact, I can agree.

The town would get destroyed if he decided to protect them..... just imagining it is scary.

Besides, this Leviathan certainly wouldn't be able to raise the two who were infants at that time. It would crush them if it made a mistake in handling.

(It must be a fate for us to meet here. I shall lend you my power when you are in trouble.)

"Huh? I thought that retainers are not allowed to help?"

Syl couldn't lend a hand, and the Water God-sama's retainers were the same.

(That's the story in that person's place. I'm originally from the surface. There are no restrictions for retainers who come from the surface.)

"Was it like that....."

I had confirmed it when I decided to look after Allen and Elena, but I have thought to be out of the condition because I come from a different world.

But, it seems like that wasn't the case.

The people at the Holy Sanctuary apparently have different conditions than on those on the surface.....

Then, if Leviathan was no good, he surely asked other retainers to take care of Allen and Elena..... he did not..... definitely.

Come to think of it, I was told that they all live in remote places.....

Are perhaps other retainers on the surface similar to Leviathan?

Ah~... it would be impossible then.

(Now then, have you decided on my name? That will become our provisional contract.)

"Eh? Na, name? Contract?"

Name..... it was serious about it?

(Umu. Not a complete master and servant contract, but connected by fate contract. It will be established when you name me. Thus, you will be able to summon me. Well, it depends on my consent, though.)

Not like Joule, Feat, and Vol who I can summon whatever they like it or not, but the consent of the partner's will is necessary.

Even if it's like that, Leviathan will become an enormous ally. I could win even against a country.

I don't have any plans on fighting them, though.

The other party proposed it, so there's no problem if I accept?

It's well-informed, so I feel he could become a reliable retainer senpai.

Then, a name. Let's see.....

"I will ask just in case, but you are a male, right?"

(N? I have no gender. But, if I had to choose then I would choose male.)

"Then, how about Kaiser?"

(Umu, good. My name is Kaiser.)

The moment he recited the name, a magic circle appeared on the sea's surface around Kaiser.

(It was safely established. From now on, I'm Kaiser. Call me like that.)

I have formed a provisional contract with a Leviathan——Kaiser.

## Chapter 44

Advisor Inauguration

"My best regards from now on, Kaiser."

(Umu.)

With this, Kaiser has more or less become my Contracted Beast. Nevertheless, I really didn't expect something like this would happen while coming to the sea.

The feeling of Allen and Elena withering disappeared all too soon. They are now watching Kaiser with great interest.

(At any rate, they are really attached to you. You seem like a real parent")

Kaiser narrowed his eyes and looked at Allen and Elena who are clinging to me.

I can't tell the difference in the Leviathan's expression, but Kaiser's gentle feeling has somehow been transmitted.

"That's so. They have recognized me as an existence similar to an older brother."

If we seem like a real family, that makes me glad.

When I stroke Allen's and Elena's heads, the two draw closer.

(Fumu~ Children, come with me")

"Eh?"

Oi, Kaiser? What are you saying all of sudden!?

Kaiser said something ridiculous while facing Allen and Elena.

(If they grew up this much, I won't have any problems. I will prepare a place they can live safely. I can definitely protect you children better, you know?)

""With Onii~chan.""

(It's not like you can't meet ever again, you know?)

""No.""

(You like your brother so much that you don't want to leave his side?)

""Yeah!""

I was surprised at Kaiser's crazy question, but Allen and Elena choose to stay with me without hesitation.

I understand that Allen and Elena are attached to me, but being chosen like this makes me really happy, after all.

(Umu, umu. It seems you have built a good relationship")

"....."

..... It seems that Kaiser didn't want to take them, but was just confirming Allen's and Elena's feelings since the beginning.

(I can't advise you on parenting, but I advise you about anything else. It has not been too long since Takumi came to this world, right? Although I'm distant to the way of humans, but I have lived for a long time, after all")

"Eh! Th, this world!?"

(Although seldom, there are times where people from other worlds slip into ours. There are also existences that have memories from their previous life. Encountering a God's retainer is much more unusual")

"Ah....."

Which reminds me, Kaiser has Appraisal skill. He must have seen both my status and my titles.

..... He accepted that I'm from a different world without being surprised. Judging by his words, he might have already met someone who came from a different world, perhaps even met a reincarnated person.

Oh, right..... there's a chance that I will come across people from a different world from now on. I may be slightly looking forward to that.

(If you have something to ask, just ask with Telepathy. If it's you, Takumi, we will be able to connect even if we are far apart.)

Nn? Telepathy?

"My Telepathy will..... connect?"

(Mu? You have learned it while talking with me, you know? Did you not notice?)

"Eh!?"

□□□□

Status

Name: Takumi Kayano

Race: Human? (Wind God's retainer)

Occupation: Magician

Age: 20

Level: 27

Skills

- Light Magic 66
- Dark Magic 65
- Wind Magic 170

- Water Magic 51
- Space Magic 118
- Life Magic 128
- Swordsmanship 54
- Throwing 52
- Appraisal 209
- Dismantling 119
- Familiars 35
- Taming 24
- Swimming 8
- Cooking 126
- Sewing 23
- Washing 12
- Cleaning 31
- Crafting 39
- Gathering 65
- Arithmetics 108
- Reading 125
- Concealment 41
- Detection 37
- Oracle 12
- Telepathy 5
- Abnormal Status Resistance 300
- Mental Status Resistance 300
- Physical Attack Resistance 300
- Magic Attack Resistance 300

## Titles

- Transmigrated From a Different World
- Blessed by the God of Creation, Marianora
- Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
- Savior
- Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon
- Monster Contractor
- A-Rank Adventurer
- Receiver of the Water Dragon King's Divine Protection

## **Contracted Beasts**

- Fenrir (Joule)
- Thunderhawk (Bolt)
- Celestial Tiger (Feat)
- Leviathan (Kaiser)(Provisional)

呵呵呵

Ah, it's true.

When I confirm my status in a hurry, a new skill Telepathy appeared. Also, Swimming is there too.

I also have new titles.

“A-Rank Adventurer” was naturally obtained when I became A-Rank adventurer.

“Receiver of the Water Dragon King’s Divine Protection” is related to Kaiser, right?

I haven’t looked at other people’s statuses, but the number of titles is absolutely a lot..... this is my eighth title. Well, they are all not normal, though.....

Among the people I have seen until now, was four titles the most?

There are various titles, and there are some which affect abilities. They grant abilities, make skill acquisition easier, and make it easier to obtain proficiency.

I have not grasped clearly yet what the effects of my titles are. It’s by having a “Different world~” title, I am able to understand Aetherdia’s language.

And if there are titles that act as a plus, there are also titles that act as a minus.

I have not met a criminal yet, but criminals apparently have a title with minus correction.

As I have had until now, I would like to avoid those people.

However..... it wouldn’t be strange for Allen and Elena to receive Kaiser’s protection, but it’s only me? Why?

“Kaiser’s divine protection appeared in my status, but?”

(Umu, that’s right.)

“Why not Allen and Elena?”

(Because my contract is with you, Takumi.)

“The contract itself is the divine protection, is it? You can’t normally give divine protection?”

A contract, huh...

It can’t be helped then, but I wish Kaiser could grant divine protection even without a contract.

(No, I can. But, I won’t give these children divine protection. As people from the same water system and children of God, they are existences way above mine. The inferior being can’t give protection to the superior one. Takumi is the wind’s person, but also a retainer like me. Although we are equal, you are simultaneously my junior. Therefore, divine protection could be given.)

“I see~”

The hierarchy, huh...

Indeed, the superior beings give divine protections to the inferior ones. It can't be helped that Allen and Elena can't receive divine protection then.

(Also Takumi, hold onto this.)

Kaiser handed me a scale he peeled off of his own body.

The scale is translucent and shining in blue color.

(That is filled with my magical power. I will be able to grasp your location if you hold onto it.)

So it's possible to track your own magical power, I see~ Does it work with perception or detection?

Is it used the same way, but instead of reacting to many unspecified magical powers, it reacts to a specific one?

Is it similar to a tracing ring? The magic stone on the ring perceives the magical power and indicates the specific place.

In that case, is it possible to substitute the magic stone with something else? Let's try it next time.

"Thank you very much. Umm..... this won't work unless I carry it, right?"

Although a scale, Kaiser's scale is as large as my face. Moreover, it's also very thick. It would be slightly unreasonable to carry this around all the time.

(I won't be able to find you if it's in a place that obstructs magical power. I won't mind if you fragment it to the size of your toes. Just carry it.)

"I understand."

A place that doesn't obstruct magical power.....

I thought about putting it in the Infinite Storage at first, but that place is not good. The magic bag is equally bad.

If so, I must make something that will allow me to carry the scale around. However, would this crack while processing?

When I flick the scale with my finger as a test, hardness transmits. It's a scale of the strongest sea monster, it wouldn't break that easily.....

"Hmm....."

(What is it?)

"The scale is hard, I was wondering if I can break it....."

(I don't mind if you break it, but it would be troublesome if it sunk. Try it after going up on the land. You should be able to break it without problems.)

Let's try it when we return to the land. Kaiser gave his guarantee, so it's should be alright.

(It's time for me to return. Children, if something happens, you should immediately depend on your older brother.)

""Yea."""

(Do not hesitate to contact me, Takumi. Then, in good health.)

"Yes. Thank you very much."

""Bye by~e."""

Kaiser has returned to the sea.

I have obtained a reliable advisor, but I got tired a lot. Let's end the water magic practice today and return to the Blue Waters Shrine.

### **Idle Talk 5**

Onii~chan

Elena is Elena.

Important, name, Oniichan gave.

Elena, has Onii~chan.

Since born, always together with Allen.

Allen is Onii~chan too, but to Elena, Onii~chan is, Takumi Onii~chan.

Onii~chan is, very kind to, Allen and Elena.

Delicious meals, he lets us eat, together with us, he sleeps.

Good girl, good girl, always he pats me.

Being patted, Elena is happy.

Again and again, it makes Elena warm.

Elena, loves, Onii~chan.

Allen is the same.

We love, Onii~chan.

◇ ◇ ◇

When monster? we defeat, Onii~chan praises us.

He worries, if we hurt.

That makes Elena happy.

More, Elena wants to be praised.  
I want him to see.  
Therefore, will work hard!  
When medicinal plant? we find, Onii~chan is happy.  
Amazing, he says with a smile.  
Many plants there are, Elena will memorize a lot.  
A lot, we will gather.  
In order, to make Onii~chan smile.

◇ ◇ ◇

The meal, Onii~chan makes, yummy is, you know?  
Today's dinner too, was delish.  
Furenh Tosto? he said.  
The thing, honey, sweet a lot.  
Deli~sh.  
The honey we get, when we defeat, Bee-san.  
""Ho~ney, ho~ney, ho~ney, ho~ney."""  
Ya~y.  
Bee-san, a lots~  
Bee-san, in the air flies, a little quick it is.  
But, is al~right.  
If with Allen, easy, easy.  
""Honey, there is~""  
Yatta~  
Honey, was there.  
With this, Furenh Tosto again, Onii~chan will make.

◇ ◇ ◇

A big, doggy, came to Onii~chan.  
"Hand."  
"Wafu."  
Doggy is, with Onii~chan, playing~

How nice~

“..... There, there~?”

Uu~ Getting patted~

Doggy, no fair~

Onii~chan, Elena too~

“What’s the matter?”

“.....”

“..... Hand?”

“Wan!”

“~~~!!”

Fufufu.

Imitated, doggy, patted by Onii~chan I got.

Oh~ Doggy too, loves Onii~chan, I see.

Same as Elena.

Doggy is, Joule.

Joule too, named by Onii~chan got.

Same as Allen and Elena.

Joule, best regards.

◇ ◇ ◇

Again, friends increased.

Feat, and, Bolt.

Everyone, loves Onii~chan.

For Onii~chan, let’s do our best together, okay?

◇ ◇ ◇

Onii~chan, amazing is.

That Onii~chan is strong, Elena knows.

Usually, he lets Allen and Elena do it, but Onii~chan increee~dibly strong is!

The adults around, surprised are.

Onii~chan, strong is, you know!

Amazing right~♪

"Allen, Elena. I will reduce the numbers first by bit, will you help me with clean up?"

""Yea!""

"Thank you."

""Ye~s""

By Onii~chan, asked to help, we were.

Happy.

Onii~chan, on Allen and Elena, depended.

Elena, work hard will!

◇ ◇ ◇

Ah, that person.....

The person, who had Allen and Elena put, into a dark place, before Onii~chan we met.

That person, not like.

Don't want to return.

Onii~chan, don't want~

""Onii~chan.....""

"Everything's all right. I will be with you as long as Allen and Elena want to stay by my side."

""Yeah.....""

Don't want to separate.

Forever, with Onii~chan, want to be.

◇ ◇ ◇

To sea? of nearby town we go, Onii~chan said.

Together with Joule, Feat, and Bolt.

With everyone, competition!

Elena, will not lose.

Get patted by Onii~chan Elena will~

Ah, Joule and Feat, used magic.

Uu~

If from distance, attack, Allen and Elena, lose will.

Can Elena, magic too?

If Elena magic, will Onii~chan, be happy?

Elena will for Onii~chan, do her best!

Therefore, together with Elena stay, okay?

## **Idle Talk 6**

Miko Princess

I'm Sarasa.

A mermaid in the position of Miko Princess, The Lord of the Blue Waters Shrine.

I was ten when I became Miko Princess. The former Miko Princess Baba-sama passed away, and in the next Miko Princess selection, the one chosen was me for some reason.

My parents were overjoyed, but I really didn't want to be Miko Princess, to be honest. I mean, Miko Princess has to live quietly in the isolated Blue Waters Shrine!

The distance between Miko Princess and other mermaids is large, she has to be treated as a holy existence.

People Miko Princess has contact with is also chosen, and it's possible to talk only with a few people..... Something so stiffening, gimme a break!

Because Miko Princess hadn't received an oracle from God in several hundred years, a position like that is not necessary anymore.

In fact, who knows who is suitable for the position of Miko Princess..... I do not.

I love swimming in the sea, it was within the barrier, but I swam every day. I won't be able to endure not being able to do that anymore!

I will swim outside the barrier once I become a bit bigger! Even though I was looking forward to it.....

Why? Why does it have to be me?

Aren't there many people who want to become Miko Princess! Rather than me, choose someone who wants to do it.....

As expected, I couldn't endure it anymore and tried to slip out of the Blue Waters Shrine, but Chief Gard always discovers me and puts me back into my room.

Several years passed and I have suddenly received an oracle.

(Sarasa? Are you listening?)

"Ah, you are....."

(I am a retainer serving the Water God-sama)

Suddenly, a voice resounded in my head..... this is!

I tremble in fear.

Because I felt an exceeding holy presence that I have never felt before. An existence close to God. I don't know why, but I clearly understood that.

"W, water... Re, retainer-sama... pl, please order me...!"

(Calm down, Sarasa)

"... Pl, please for... give me....."

My voice trembles. Let alone voice, my whole body trembles.

Although not Water God-sama, Water Retainer-sama is an incredibly noble existence. Shrinking back in fear is natural.

Ah..... I am... calm.....

(Then, I will state my business)

Retainer-sama who gave me time to calm down stated her business at once.

It was about the crisis the mermaids living in the Blue Waters Shrine are facing right now.

At present, there is a fear that a coral which is critical to mermaids will be destroyed. Because losing the coral is a matter of life and death to the mermaids, it's a serious issue.

Why such a thing is happening, is because a large boat has sunk and sealed the entrance to the cave where it coral is being cultivated. With that entrance sealed, it's not possible to enter the cave and take care of the coral. If we can't take care of it, the coral will wither.

It seems the ship is too big, not even the whole tribe was able to move it.

We are finished... I thought at that time.

It appears that Retainer-sama's Oracle is in regards to that.

(A gentleman called Takumi-san will arrive at the sea tomorrow. That person will definitely solve the problem you are facing. Please, go to receive him.)

"Takumi-sama, is it? That person, what kind of person is he?"

(He is a human. Very gentle, kindhearted person. I can not tell you in detail, but he is a benefactor of us, the Water people.)

What a thing! A person that even Water Retainer-sama speaks of so highly will come to our Blue Waters Shrine!

We have to be careful not to displease him!

(It is all right, Sarasa. Takumi-san will not get angry about small mistakes. Rather, you might harm his mood by treating him too grandiosely.)

“W, what should we.....”

(Moderately, is the way to go.)

Retainer-sama instructed me how to treat Takumi-sama properly. I carefully listened to every single word not to miss anything.

Among Retainer-sama's words, there was something that my ears couldn't believe.

It's garbage, you know!? Retainer-sama! Are you telling me to give garbage to Takumi-sama!?

Won't he get displeased if he gets to know about it!? Is that really okay!?

..... However, since Retainer-sama said it would be alright, I have no choice, but to prepare myself to take such action.

After the brief instruction, Retainer-sama's Oracle was cut off.

I felt a bit lonely, but now is not the time for that.

“Gard! Gard!! Gard, it's serious!!”

In order to prepare as soon as possible, I summon Gard with a loud voice.

It's improper, and I may get scolded, but that doesn't matter.

“Miko Princess, why are you shouting so loudly? Did something happen?”

“It's an Oracle! We have been given an Oracle!!”

When I say so, Gard's eyes open wide and his body froze on the spot.

Haa~ Such reaction is unusual for Gard..... hey, it's not the time to say something like that.

“Gard, are you listening? Tomorrow, Takumi-sama will arrive at the beach and he will do something about that troublesome ship!”

“Is that true!?”

Ah, he revived.

Gard who recovered from the being frozen enthusiastically leaned forward and listened.

“It's true. There's no doubt since Water Retainer-sama said so. Therefore, we have to send someone to receive him! Ah! Confidentially! To not cause trouble for Takumi-sama, we have to hold things down to a minimum without announcing the oracle.”

“In that case, let's use Mirena. She's Miko Princess' attendant and my grandchild. She is educated to not reveal secrets.”

"Right, Mirena would be good. Call her immediately please."

Gard hurriedly leaves the room.

Gard who usually conducts himself quietly is..... Gard is excited too, huh.  
Somehow, watching Gard like that makes me calm.....

Yup, I will be able to calm down.

When Gard comes back with Mirena, we three carefully make the arrangements.

Because Takumi-sama is a human, a mermaid bracelet magic tool will be necessary.  
I give Mirena instructions to take more than one bracelet as it seems Takumi-sama  
has a company and leave the preparations of small things to Gard.

By the way, both Gard and Mirena were shocked when I told them about the reward.  
They will have such a reaction after all..... is it really okay?

..... No! I should not doubt Water Retainer-sama's words. I'm sure it's okay!

Thus, we prepared to receive Takumi-sama in a hurry.

It was a Retainer-sama, but it has been several hundred years since the last Oracle.  
I was really surprised and happy that such a spectacular event has happened while I  
served as Miko Princess.

My negative feelings about being Miko Princess had disappeared before I knew, and  
I felt proud of myself.

It's not too late, is it? I will show you that I can become a splendid Miko Princess!

—I made up my mind, however.....

The things have progressed good for the most part, I was a little too much excited  
when I met Takumi-sama and caused him trouble.

..... I'm really sorry. I'm reflecting.

From now on! I will become a splendid Miko Princess!

## **Chapter 45**

New Dungeon

After parting ways with Kaiser, we have returned to the Blue Waters Shrine.

And in the next morning.

"You are already leaving? Please stay a little longer. We haven't shown our  
hospitality yet."

"No, no. We have already received enough."

"Because Takumi-sama must have some plans, it would be rude of us to try to make him stay forcibly. Please come again, by all means."

"Yes. We will visit again."

"It is a promise."

I finish our farewells with Miko Himesama, Gard-san, and Mirena-san whom I am indebted and decided to promise to visit again.

◇ ◇ ◇

"Allen, Elena~ You must not touch that."

""Ye~s.""

While carefreely swimming to the land, a flashy red starfish with purple polka dots——Acid Starfish appeared.

It has a paralysis poison.

If touched directly, your whole body would get paralyzed, but you wouldn't die. If kicked while wearing leather shoes, there is no problem at all. However as expected, am I being too overprotective by not wanting them even to approach it?

Dealing with it underwater with wind and water magic would be too troublesome, so I retrieve the Water Katana from the Infinite Storage and cut directly at the Starfish. Because it's an E-Rank monster, I finish it with one slash.

When mixing the Acid Starfish's paralytic poison with medicinal plants, it can be used as anesthetics. Rather, it's a monster whose materials are not worth the time.

However, it would be difficult to extract the poison here, so I just store it whole into the Infinite Storage.

"Ah, Crab-san~"

"Crab-san, defeat~"

A Sand Crab appeared this time. Three at once. Allen and Elena happily rush towards the crabs to defeat them.

I thought of helping since there are three crabs, but two of them were instantly defeated with one blow. It appears that helping is not necessary at all.

"..... Huh?"

While coming out on the seashore, I noticed a certain reef. That is certainly..... looks familiar.....

If it looks familiar, it means that it's most likely from the implanted knowledge. When I look for that implanted memory, I immediately remember.

Ah, right! A dungeon!

That reef is the entrance to a dungeon.

The 53rd "Dungeon of Ripples." An Intermediate Class Water Dungeon.

I decided to stop by since we have a precious dungeon and we change course towards the reef.

There's an entrance to the dungeon in the sea.

When we pass through the entrance, there was a waterway that lasted approximately 50m. We will be fine because of the mermaid bracelets we have received, but people who don't have them would have to dive all the way?

I don't have any experience in diving, so I wouldn't really know, but I have doubts about holding the breath for such distance. Tens of seconds while swimming at full speed? There are people who can hold their breath for several minutes, so it's not completely impossible, huh...

The waterway went down a little, and there was a dead end at the end. There's a light overhead. It appears we can get out from up there.

When I cautiously look around from the sea surface, there was a hall-like place.

This seems to be the start point of the dungeon. I can see a transfer device in the center of the hall.

First of all, I lift up Allen and Elena to the edge of the hall and then I climb out of the water myself.

And then, when I check my guild card, 53rd Dungeon "Sazami" 0/30 floor has been recorded.

There's entrance in the inner part of the hall. Because there doesn't seem to be any other places we may be able to enter, that must be the entrance to the first floor.

"Now then, what should we do?"

I had impulsively entered a dungeon, but I have returned from the sea I have just gotten used to. Actually, I was planning to go to the town of Bailey and rest for a while.

""Let's go~!""

It seems that Allen and Elena are already full of intentions to go.

Although they don't show fatigue, they are still five years old children. Because they don't show fatigue, I want to take regular breaks, but...

""Is okay~""

"....."

Recently, I have a feeling that Allen and Elena are able to read my thoughts.

..... My thoughts are not reflected on my face, are they?

It makes me worried a little.

"N~ Then, shall we go up to the tenth floor? Once we get there, let's go take a break in the town."

""Yea!""

The Dungeon of Ripples altogether has 30 floors. It's an Intermediate Class dungeon.

In the case of an Intermediate Class dungeon, there are transfer devices every ten floors. Using the transfer device, it's possible to resume the dungeon capture from the tenth floor next time. With that, we won't waste time even if we take a break.

The arrangements are made so let's begin the dungeon capture without reservation.

But, before that——

"It's almost noon so let's go after having a meal."

""Yeah! Meal~!""

"Is there anything you'd like to eat?"

""N~.....""

N~ As for me, I would like to eat something warm.

We have been in the care of the Blue Waters Shrine——The Mermaids' main meals are raw fish and shellfish sashimi, vegetables and seaweed salads that were cultivated in the Blue Waters Shrine.

Everything was very delicious, but because they are basically a race that doesn't use fire, there were no warm dishes.

""Furench Tosto!""

While remembering the meals of the Blue Waters Shrine, Allen and Elena have apparently decided. Their request is a sweet French Toast with plentiful of honey.

They didn't request a lot of honey themselves, but "French Toast = plentiful of honey" is fixed for the twins.

"Let's see..... let's make a French Toast with a warm soup then?"

""Yea.""

"Then, will you help me with the making of the French Toast?"

""Will help~""

When I put eggs and sugar into a bowl, Allen presses down the bowl with his both hands as I was used to, and Elena began mixing the egg.

Because the French Toast is Allen's and Elena's most favorite dish, I have made it many times and had the two help me each time.

When the egg scrambled, I put milk in the bowl. This time, Elena pressed down on the bowl, and Allen starts mixing.

""Done~""

"Thank you."

It seems they have already completely mastered the egg-mixing for the French Toast.

I thoroughly soak bread in the egg mixture the two children made, melt butter in the frying pan and start cooking. Once done, I place the toasts on a plate and pour honey over it.

For the soup, let's have the pre-made vegetable consommé soup. Pour it in the cups, and.

Alright! It's completed.

"It's done~"

""Ye~s.""

"Then, itadakimasu."

""Itadakima~shu."""

## **Chapter 46**

Dungeon of Ripples – Capture 1

After finishing our lunch, we immediately start with the capture of the first floor.

"Light."

When I turn on the light and peek inside the entrance, there was a culvert-like place. A waterway with flowing water in the center. And a pathway people can walk on both of its sides.

Because it's a single, straight path we don't hesitate to advance. I was just concerned about which side of the waterway to walk, but because it was a jumpable distance between both sides, I have decided to walk on the left side for now.

With nothing happening for a while, the waterway split in the shape of T.

"Which way shall we go?"

""There~""

“Alright, left it is.”

Allen and Elena pointed to the left simultaneously.

When I inquire which way to go just like I did during the previous dungeon capture, the two pointed without hesitation.

Left means that we don't have to jump across the waterway.

As we advance, obviously poisonous purple frogs with yellow dots jumped out from the water.

E-Rank monster, Poison Frog.

“Allen, Elena. Because this fellow has poison, use magic. I leave the one in front of you in your care. ——Air Shot.”

To make it easier for Allen and Elena to aim, I clean up all Poison Frogs except the one in front of them with a wind bullet.

“”Ye~s——Water~ Ball~.””

They have practiced magic on rocks. Therefore, it's Allen's and Elena's first time shooting a moving target.

Allen and Elena aimed their water balls straight ahead and shot and the Poison Frogs.

However, because of a slight movement of the Poison Frog, the water balls missed. Was it truly accidental that the water balls the two shot landed at the same place?

“”Muu~””

Allen and Elena make slightly frustrated expressions.

I know I shouldn't laugh in this situation, but because the two's expression was so adorable I broke into a smile.

“Cough..... Allen, Elena. Try aiming one more time. You can do it.”

“”Okay. ——Water~ Ball~.””

This time, the two's water balls hit the Poison Frog.

“”It hit~!“”

“Good, good~ Well done.”

A bottle filled with Poison Frog's poison appeared at the place of the Poison Frog. Allen and Elena swiftly pick it up and jump at me.

Seriously cute~

“Shall we practice magic like this for a little more?”

""Yea!""

When I ask while stroking the two's heads, they cheerfully answer.

After that, we smoothly advanced, and when a monster appeared, Allen and Elena defeated it with magic.

What appeared next were slimes. Fruit jelly made with the slime jelly it drops is quite delicious. Because I have a certain feeling that slime jelly can be used for something else besides fruit jelly, we assertively defeat it and collect the drops.

Which reminds me, all slimes here we have defeated until now were light blue in color. The slime jelly it drops is semi-transparent, odorless and tasteless, but the color of the slimes here is different from the previous dungeon. Is the slime jelly dropped from different colored slimes the same?

I'm afraid to say that Syl's implemented knowledge doesn't have anything on this. Well~ On the contrary, if there was a detailed knowledge about the ecology of slimes, that would actually be quite unpleasant.....

Because it doesn't look like we will come across slimes different than the light blue ones here, I'm looking forward to the next dungeon.

Allen and Elena beat the monster that appeared one after another.

Water Lizard, Sand Crab, Big Lobster..... Only when there were a lot of monsters, I reduced their numbers first and let Allen and Elena fight one on one as much possible.

But, they are already getting used to it, so it will be alright to let them deal with multiple enemies soon? The amount of magical power they have left is still okay. Shall we try without thinning out the numbers next time?

""Found~""

About an hour after entering the first floor, Allen and Elena found a staircase to the next floor.

This Dungeon of Ripples seems to be slightly bigger than the Dungeon of Earth. But, I feel like the difficulty in this Intermediate Class dungeon isn't that different from the Beginner Class one.

The monsters appearing are of F and E ranks.....

Is it like this because this is a lower floor? Will the degree of difficulty gradually increase from now on?

I descend the staircase while thinking so.

The second floor isn't different from the first one.

""Water~ Ball~""

The moment we get down, a Poison Frog appeared. Allen and Elena instantly killed it with magic.

It appears that the children have gotten used to the magic already.

"You are so skillful. I have no words!"

""Hehee~""

When I praise them, Allen and Elena bashfully smile. Seriously, my children are too cute!

""Ah, there~""

While in agony because of Allen's and Elena's cuteness, the two suddenly found a secret room.

I confirm whether a trap is there or not and slowly slide the door open.

A treasure chest is in the middle of the room. A treasure chest the size of the extent where I would have to hold it with both of my hands. There's neither a trap or a key needed to open the chest. Iya~ Having appraisal in situations like this is quite nice~

""Can open~?""

"You can. It's safe."

When Allen and Elena open the chest, there was a large number of shrimps inside. Shrimps bright red as the Whiskered velvet shrimp. Botan shrimp-ish?

They are not alive, but they are fresh as if just caught.

""What is this~?""

"Hm? These are shrimps. It's food."

""Delish~?""

"Aah~... I have never eaten this shrimp. But, shrimps are delicious."

""Can eat~?""

"Eh? Raw!? No, wait!"

Can shrimps be eaten raw? Ah! Appraisal doesn't show edibility!

Why does it not have such needed info!?

"Allen, Elena. I will make a delicious dinner using these shrimps later, how about we don't eat it right now?"

""? Okay. Got it.""

Ha~ I'm glad Allen and Elena are not selfish children~ Because there are children that have to have their own way even if told not to do something. I'm sincerely glad that they are obedient children~

In fact, I think that there won't be any problems if eaten raw, but it's better to stop them just in case. As compensation, I will cook a delicious shrimp dish, okay!

I pull myself together, and we continue to advance. 2-4 floors went favorably without an accident.

We found several treasure chests on the way, but they were all full of seafood. A pure white shrimps, clams, kelp, bonito flakes, etc. Of course, I gratefully accepted it all.

Especially bonito flakes! I have received small dried fish from the Water God Retainer-sama, but bonito flakes weren't among them.

I like soup stock with katsuobushi the most. Therefore, I was a bit happy~ Because even if you have bonito, it takes time to make bonito flakes.

We smoothly advance forward and are on the fifth floor at the moment.

""Found~""

The time is good, so let's end today's capturing here. It's just the right time since Allen and Elena found a staircase to the sixth floor.

Since that's the case, let's make dinner. Today's meal is Evil Viper meat I have completely forgotten about served with rice.

Iya~ It was a snake with evil appearances, but the meat was soft and delicious. As expected of A-Rank monster.

Although it's a rare high-class ingredient, I have secured 100kg of meat. One hundred grams is enough for us to have one meal. Therefore, we won't run out for a while. Rather, I think I secured way too much..... Oh well.

After that, I boiled the shrimps we got during the day with salt. I thought trying it simple for now.

It was just salted, but it was delicious.

""Delish~""

Allen and Elena were also satisfied with the Evil Viper and shrimps.

Now then, our stomachs are full so let's take it easy and sleep.

## **Chapter 47**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 2

When the dawn breaks, we have a light breakfast and resume the capture.

Today, we are starting on the sixth floor.

It is originally a maze, but it's getting slightly complicated. Hidden passages are now harder to find.

""Yaa!""

Once they finished the magic training, Allen and Elena are free to fight as they like, causing their kicking style to explode. It seems they like martial arts more than magic.

But, they appear to remember my warnings about not approaching poison monsters as they are properly defeating them with magic.

"Oops, wait a moment!"

It's Impact Shell. That's a shell monster, but it releases a shock wave when hit. Because of that, you have to make a distance when attacking it.

"You have to attack that from a bigger distance than usual."

""Ye~s.""

I inform Allen and Elena, and they take a distance from the Impact Shell. Then, I hit the Impact Shell with light magic that wouldn't defeat it.

And immediately, bon, the sound broke, and vibrations passed through. It's this faint because we are far away from it, the impact in the vicinity of the Impact Shell is considerably large.

"See? It's okay when you defeat it in one blow, but as you have seen, you could get injured so let's defeat it from a distance just in case, okay?"

""Got it~""

When Allen and Elena reply in consent, I shoot magic again and defeat the Impact Shell.

Which reminds me, I haven't looked at Allen's and Elena's status for a while now. I thought so and confirmed it——

|||||

### **Status**

Name: Allen (Elena)

Race: Human?

Occupation: Fighter

Age: 5

Level: 25

### **Skills**

- Water Magic
- Hand-to-hand Combat
- Evasion
- Throwing
- Swimming
- Presence Detection
- Jumping
- Telepathy
- Gathering
- Arithmetics
- Abnormal Status Resistance

## **Titles**

- Water God's Child
- Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon

□□□□□

What I notice first is that the question marks have disappeared. It clearly states "Water God's Child" now.

Although I don't know if it's because I figured out their identity or because the level of my appraisal has increased.

I don't think it's about the amount of magical power like in Kaiser's case.

..... Still, this is bad. I'm level 27 at the moment. It turns out that Allen's and Elena's level is not that different from mine now.

Even though it should have considerably increased when I defeated the Evil Viper. They caught up all too soon.

Is it that? The hunting competition with Joule and others during our trip from Shirin? They have defeated quite the number of monsters at that time..... The monsters of Gaya Forest are overall strong, it seems they raised their levels smoothly.

As expected, being lower level than the two would be uncool..... But, you see..... these children love fighting so much, refraining them would be a bit, right~

But, even so, it's impossible to level while the children sleep because they sleep sticking close to me.

U~n, this is difficult.....

For now, let's train at least the proficiencies. Because I don't have to defeat monsters to train proficiencies, all I have to do is practice when I'm free. Un, let's do that.

I have to be especially careful with the water magic!

""This~""

“Thank you.”

Allen and Elena brought me the Impact Shell’s drop item.

It’s a string sticking out from cylinder made from paper..... This, this is a cracker, right?

□□□□

Cracker

When the string is pulled, a light exploding sound will come out from the cylinder part.

Just right for startling people.

□□□□

..... It’s the very cracker, alright. A strange thing appeared again.

However, the description! “Just right for startling people,” that isn’t the original use!

A cracker is intended for parties, not for startling people. Although I have used it to startle people, state the original use in the description properly!

““This, wha~t is?””

“N? This is called a cracker, and when you pull this string, pan, it will make a loud sound. Do you want to try it?”

Since we obtained it, let’s try how much loud of a sound it makes.

““Want~””

“Then, turn this part away from you. You can’t aim it towards yourselves and other people, okay? Then, will you two pull the string together?”

““Ye~s.””

While I hold the cylinder, Allen and Elena hold the string and at the count of “One~two”, Allen and Elena pull on the string.

—Bam!!

“!!!!”

““Hiyaa!””

The moment the string was pulled, the cracker made a loud explosive sound.

My ears are ringing.

The sound was louder than I expected. Allen and Elena scream in a startle, cling to my legs and trembling.

Who was the one who wrote the description Just right for startling people!?

This is already a lethal sound weapon! Moreover, not only the other party, but you also inflict considerable self-damage.

“Allen, Elena, sorry. It startled you, didn’t it?”

“Uu~”

The two are slightly teary eyes. I’m really sorry.

Anyway, let’s embrace the two and soothe them.

Afterward, when the defeated Impact Shell dropped Crackers, Allen and Elena didn’t approach them.

This didn’t become a trauma or something, right? They just don’t want to approach it, right?

I also thought about leaving the Crackers behind, but couldn’t this item be used by handing it to the opponent and letting him self-destruct? Because I thought so, I reconsidered and picked it up.

I thought using it when coming across a nasty fellow like Baron Gilbert.

Since it’s not an excessively known item, I thought the opponent may want to get his hands on it out of curiosity.

Nothing, in particular, has happened after the Cracker incident and we have advanced smoothly.

Well, the rate at which we encountered monsters has increased? Only to that degree.

So, we are currently on the ninth floor, but..... Oops, a Water Lizard is sticking to the ceiling.

At any rate, it’s huge. A lizard as big as a human child..... If I had to say, newt-ish?

It can stick to the ceiling without falling quite well~

“Allen, Elena. Look for a bit——Water Needle.”

The water flowing in the waterway changes into a sharp needle and pierces the Water Lizard.

It’s magic where you compress the original source of water and change its shape to attack.

I had defeated it properly as the Water Lizard turned into a drop item. “Water Lizard’s Tail,” it says. What can this item be used for? Well, let’s put it in the Infinite Storage for now.

“Did you see it? Do you want to practice magic by changing the water’s shape like this?”

""Okay, will do~""

Allen and Elena are already accustomed to the Water Ball enough, so I thought it's time for them to learn something new.

""Water Needle~""

Allen and Elena turn towards a Water Lizard sticking to a wall and cast the spell.

Many Water Lizards are sticking on the walls as we advance. It's a perfect place for Allen and Elena to practice so they take care of them one after another.

## **Chapter 48**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 3

After hunting Water Lizards to our heart's content, we have decided to suspend the capture and take a break because we have found the staircase to the 10th floor.

That being the case, good morning.

It's finally the 10th floor today. There should be the transfer device on this floor so let's aim for that!

Oh, before that, breakfast. Now then, what shall we eat~ ..... Freshly baked bread, sunny-side-up fried eggs, and a wiener. Is it okay with potage soup?

Allen and Elena are not picky. No, wrong... They love Cream bread and French toast, so they have no "food they dislike."

Well~ anyhow, since they are eating so deliciously, it's worth making it.

After we finished breakfast, we resumed the capturing right away.

The 10th-floor was identical to the past floors with a waterway in the middle and space to walk on the sides.

Allen and Elena choose the passage on the right, and after several minutes of walking, we have encountered a large cast of Sand Crabs.

""Yaa!""

""There!""

Allen and Elena smoothly annihilated them at once, though.

Crab legs and Crab shells are rolling on the ground together with drop items.

Which reminds me, I have not tried the Kani Nabe[Crab Hot Pot] yet. Should I try making it for today's dinner~

Following, a large lounge of Water Lizards have appeared.

""Water Needle~""

They precisely penetrate the Water Lizards sticking to the walls with Water Needles.

They learned this magic just yesterday yet they have already mastered it. They really do learn quick.....

Overtaking me is a matter of time..... sniff (Crying).

◇ ◇ ◇

"Is this it....."

After smoothly advancing while defeating monsters on the way, we found a door similar to the door which led to the boss room in the Dungeon of Earth.

There's no point in staying here any longer so when I touch the door, it's starts shining as I expected—and with a gigigi sound, it slowly opens.

It's the same phenomenon as in the Dungeon of Earth. I was somehow surprised the last time, but it's not so surprising the second time, huh.

However, I was surprised when the door opened.

Most of the room is filled with water. The area around the door is a land, and then there's something like a small island in the center. Otherwise, everything is water.

Looking at the water from the surface, it seems to be quite deep.

A long bridge is suspended straight between the place we are staying at and the island. It seems we have to go to the island.

I have decided to cross the bridge while paying attention to both sides as there are no handrails. Something will jump out of the water at us without a doubt.

""Wind Cutter.""

As expected, something has jumped at us from the water. Shooting it down with magic, it was Arrowfish.

Arrowfish is a fish with long and narrow appearances similar to an otter, the tip of its body resembles a terrifying arrowhead. And, as the name suggests, it's a fish monster that jumps from the water at considerably speeds just like an arrow.

Because it's movements are monotone, it's considered as a lowly F-Rank monster.

However, it wasn't just that Arrowfish.

After the first Arrowfish, more and more Arrowfish came flying at us from both sides one after another.

"Winder Cutter."

""Water~ Ball~""

I shoot down the Arrowfish with magic together with Allen and Elena.

The troublesome thing is that Arrowfish lives in groups. You will certainly have a painful experience if you neglect them for being F-Rank.

After shooting down about 100 of them, it has finally calmed down. Was this the all for now?

Looking at the water's surface, a lot of Arrowfish drop items are floating in the water. Most of it was arrows.

Due to the flow of water..... the drop items that fell away from the bridge were drifting towards us, making it easy to pick them up.

Nevertheless, arrows, huh.....

I have wanted to try archery for a long time ago. Well, I wanted to, but never actually tried.

Why, you ask? I was scared of shooting myself, didn't I.....

..... It shouldn't be a problem now. I should buy a good bow and try practicing.

Which reminds me, the guild is offering short courses on weapon handling. In that case, I may also learn how to handle weapons other than the bow, such as sword or spear.

We arrive at the island in the center while picking up the items, and I start feeling monster presence again. I wonder if Arrowfish will start jumping at us again?

"Allen on the left, Elena on the right. Can you do it?"

"Yea! Allen will work hard~"

"Elena too. Elena will work hard too~"

I point with my finger and show them the direction they are in charge of. Allen and Elena stay in front, each taking care of their side while I stay behind covering left and right from behind.

Allen and Elena returned reliable replies.

"Wind Cutter."

""Water~ Ball~"

As expected, more Arrowfish came flying.

Allen and Elena shoot down the Arrowfish on their respective sides one after another. It's a situation where they have to fire magic continuously, but Allen and Elena don't panic.

After shooting down enough to forget to count, the monster presence finally disappeared.

Does it end with this?

When I look at the water's surface after defeating the last Arrowfish, it was full of arrows and small blue magic stones.

Besides that, a short, small spear? was there. Perhaps a javelin?

Speaking of which, it felt like there were one or two larger individuals every 30 or so fish. I didn't confirm, but is that the drop from it?

Before I notice, another bridge which is leading away from the island towards a hole in a wall has appeared.

This is apparently the end, it doesn't seem like monsters will come flying at us on the other bridge.

""Onii~chan, look, look. Many~""

"That's amazing~ You two really worked hard~"

""Ehehe~""

Allen and Elena are holding arrows they have picked up in both of their hands.

They worked hard shooting the Arrowfish with magic, and they even picked up the dropped items on their own, seriously hard working and good children~

Good boy, good girl, when I pat the two, they become bashful. Kawaii~

"Can I ask you to help me collect more?"

""Yea!""

With Allen and Elena's help, we have finished collecting the dropped items.

Then, let's go to the opposite bank at once. When I thought about crossing over, Allen and Elena pulled on my clothes.

"N? What's the matter?"

"Onii~chan, bellow."

"Something's there~"

"Eh? Down in the water?"

""Yeah!""

It appears that Allen and Elena have noticed something in the water.

I think it's apparent that it's not a living creature. Because if it was a living creature, I should be able to detect it myself.

As I'm unable to sense not living beings, if Allen and Elena say there's something in there, then there's something in there.

"It looks safe, want to take a dive?"

""Yup!""

First of all, let's dive in and confirm.

There's no need to prepare anything because of the Mermaid bracelet, so we can go in without hesitation.

"Ah, a treasure chest."

The water is surprisingly deep, but as the water is clear, I was able to see a treasure chest at the bottom immediately.

To think it would be at a place like this..... Allen and Elena did well noticing~

After checking the presence of a trap and opening the box, there was a Mermaid bracelet in the treasure chest.

It must be quite rare since it's in a treasure chest. However, because we already have it, the surprise was reduced by half?

But, if there's spare, I can use it for Joule or others, so I will gratefully accept it.

Since there wasn't anything else besides the treasure chest, we leave from the water and cross the bridge. When I looked at the inner part from the entrance, there was a small room as expected.

There was a staircase leading down and a transfer device installed next to it.

"Then, shall we go?"

""Yea!""

I take Allen and Elena, touch the transfer device, and we return to the hall on the first floor.

Now then, we have achieved our objective, let's make a lavish meal of Kani Nabe!

## **Chapter 49**

Harbor Town Bailey

After successfully capturing the tenth floor, we have returned to the hall on the first floor where we spend the night.

Of course, we have thoroughly enjoyed Kani Nabe for dinner. I used miso based soup and used not only crabs but also other seafood such as shrimps and plenty vegetables.

Sand Crabs are really delicious. Allen and Elena stuffed their cheeks full. They were chewing with inflated cheeks, looking like cute squirrels~

And the next morning, we have arrived in Bailey.

When we entered the town, we headed towards the harbor first. Bailey is connected to a sea, so many boats are coming in and out of the harbor.

Fishing boats and merchant ships transporting people and goods to other countries. Large and small ships are lined up in the harbor.

Despite it being early in the morning, the square near the harbor is crowded with many people.

It's a morning market. The fresh marine products caught in the morning are being sold here.

There are also many stalls where you can eat on the spot.

We have not eaten breakfast this morning yet. I thought that such a place would be in a harbor town, so we came here early in the morning.

We have spotted many street stall and shops while looking around.

A shop selling fresh fish. A shop selling fish and shellfish grilled on a charcoal fire. A considerable variety of seafood is being sold.

Oh, this shop is selling scallops.

This stall is selling scallops in shells on top of a grill. The muscles of these scallops are larger than of the Yesso Scallops I'm familiar with.

"Hello."

"Ou, welcome. These were caught just this morning. Would you like to eat some?"

"They look delicious. Is this seasoned with salt?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"If possible, I would like to season it myself, is it okay?"

"A different seasoning? Well, I don't mind."

"Then, can I have three?"

"These are almost done. Are these fine?"

"Yes. Then.....—"

I pay the money and place a piece of butter on top of the muscles. When the butter melts, I sprinkle it with soy sauce.

The butter and soy sauce heat up in a blink of an eye and a delicious smell floats around.

It's butter-soy sauce grilled scallop. Scallops should be done like this when it comes to the grill, right?

"Allen, Elena. It's hot so be careful when eating, okay?"

“”Ye~s.””

When I hand the hot shells to Allen and Elena after transferring it on a plate, the two fuufuu... cool it down and start eating.

“Allen, Elena. How is it? Delicious?”

“”Delish~””

Seeing Allen and Elena eat so deliciously, I take the big scallop and eat too.

Terrific! Delicious!!

The muscle is so tender and delicious. Moreover, because it's so big, I got quite filled with just one.

“”Onii~chan, delish~?“”

Yep, it's delicious.”

Somehow, I feel warm and fluffy~

“S, smells really good. Niichan, I understand the first thing was butter, but what was the dark liquid?”

“It's sap from a tree called Koikuchi which grows in dungeons, it's seasoning called Soy Sauce. Would you like to try?”

“I, is that okay!? Please!”

The stall owner who watched us eat seemed to want to try it too. The fragrance of butter and soy sauce is really appetizing after all.

When I asked if he wants to try, he immediately bit the bait. Therefore, when I finished making the scallop with the same procedure as before, the stall owner immediately chomped it down.

“Delicious!! What is this, I have never tasted anything so delicious. So good!”

Super-high praise. The stall owner finished eating in a blink of an eye.

I know it's delicious, but let's calm down a bit. If you shout so loud, you will attract the attention of the surroundin——

“Old man, that looks delicious. I'd like to eat that too!”

“Me too!”

“Give me some too~”

“I would like some too.”

Are? The surroundings had gathered before I noticed..... It appears that the passersby already gathered because of the fragrance.

“”Ah~””

Unconsciously, the stall owner and I leak out a voice.

“Niichan..... could you lend me that soy sauce?”

“Well, I’m also responsible, so I don’t mind.”

I obtained quite a lot of soy sauce in the town of Shirin, so there’s no problem selling a bottle to this uncle.

Rather, butter and soy sauce scallops are not a product here. If I said something wrong, the people here would probably riot.

“Sorry about that~ By the way, could you lend me some butter too?”

“Ah~ Sure.”

Lured by the fragrance, customers seeking butter and soy sauce scallops formed a queue.

The stall owner stuffed the grill with scallops to the limit.

Because I couldn’t just feign ignorance and leave, I was in charge of putting butter and soy sauce over the scallops.

Allen and Elena who finished eating their scallops were clinging to my legs while quietly observing the situation.

“Sorry. We are sold out!”

The scallops ran out of stock in no time. People who hadn’t eaten yet walked away from the stall with disappointed expressions.

To be honest, I didn’t expect such a thing to happen.

“To be sold out so early, it’s my first time since setting the stall up. Niichan, sorry, you even had to help me~”

“Well~ I was surprised that so many people came~”

“You don’t see such seasonings around here after all. The tempting appetizing smell makes it even better. Everyone would get attracted to it.”

From talking more, it appears that every stall only uses salt as seasoning.

I guess it will be delicious just because it’s fresh, but having the same taste in every shop.....

“Nevertheless, I had sold it because of the course of events, was that okay? Or.....”

The stall owner is fidgeting for some reason. He’s hesitating to ask something. Un, a fidgeting old man is not cute at all.

This is that. The same attitude Road-san had when I made Cream bread

“No problem. If you want to sell it, do as you please.”

“Really!?”

It's just pouring over some seasoning, it's not that different from the original dish.

It's just——

“However, please supply the seasoning by yourself.”

“Of course!”

If he uses up the soy sauce, he has to secure more by himself. I had to make that point clear.

“Oh, right! Niichan, take this.”

The stall owner held out a bucket which was laying aside at the stall. Inside were without a doubt, scallops.

Are? Wasn't he sold out?

“These are slightly smaller than the ones I sell. They are smaller in size, but I can guarantee the taste.”

The stall owner says he can't sell them, but they are big enough to eat.

“Is that okay?”

“Sure. I think it's little lacking as thanks, but please accept them.”

“Thank you very much.”

After I had received the scallops, the owner went looking for a store selling soy sauce, so we have separated. Leaving the stall as is.....

“He left.”

“”Left~””

Well, the stalls on both sides should be owned by his acquaintances, so it's probably okay.....

“Allen, Elena, you can still eat, right? What would you like to eat next~?”

“”N, you see~..... That~””

I made them wait a while, but let's continue the breakfast?

## Chapter 50

Water Dragon's Scale

After the meal, we have looked around the stalls in the morning market.

Anyhow, there are many marine products displayed. From the familiar fish and shellfish to colorful tropical fish. Sometimes, we would see poisonous fish, but all that was also edible seafood.

I was troubled about what to buy because there were so many different kinds, but I have asked the people in charge for a recommendation and decided to buy that. Thereupon, before I realized, I have purchased a massive amount of marine products.

Honestly, have I bought too much? Is that I thought at first, but on Aetherdia, fish can be only obtained on the seaside, so I won't be able to get more when we move inland. I have decided to buy as much as I can.

After finished shopping, we went through the morning market square and strolled along the shopping street. There, a Blacksmith caught my eye, so I decided to take a look.

"Excuse me~"

"Ou. Customer?"

When entering the store and calling out, an Oyaji-san showed his face from inside.

"Would you be able to refine this?"

What I show him is Leviathan's——Kaiser's scale.

I have split them in suitable sizes.

When resting in the dungeon, I tried to break it with a tool and it unexpectedly easily broke just as Kaiser said.

It's just that because it really broke, the fragments were sharp and could inflict an injury if carelessly touched.

"Let me take a look. ..... Not a stone. A scale? Nevertheless, it's quite thick and heavy. Besides, this magical power..... No way!!!?"

As expected, handing him a scale just as I received would be bad. I split it thinking such, but it seems it can't escape a trained eye.

The blacksmith uncle stares at me in surprise.

"This is not something that you can find on the ground."

"Ah~ Is that so~"

Dragon scales don't fall off easily.

No, I said it wrong. When it's time for a dragon to replace its scales, the old scales will come off in its nest, you can hardly find dragon scales away from the dragon's nest.

Another thing is that it can't be obtained by hurting a dragon, it has to be defeated. However, aside from sub-dragons, superior dragons are something that humans seldom challenge.

Because of that, Leviathan's scales are something to revere.

Uncle asks me where did I find something that's almost impossible to obtain at the market.

"W, where did you get it?"

"..... It was a present."

"Something so precious, who would just give it to you!"

"That's strictly confidential."

"....."

Even if I say that I got it from Leviathan himself (dragon at roots)? he wouldn't believe..... Rather, he would doubt my sanity.

He seems to be interested as a craftsman, but don't inquire about it too deeply, please.

"It's natural that something like this has to be secret, huh..... so, you want me to polish this?"

"Yes. I don't want to get hurt while carrying it. And then, I would like to make a hole big enough for a strap, but."

"Certainly, it would be dangerous if left as is. To scrap and polish to the degree that you won't get injured..... Well, I think I could manage somehow, but..... A hole would be impossible. If I'm to make a hole forcibly, it will break without a doubt."

"Eh, is that so?"

..... Hey, Kaiser, I'm going to have a hard time making it into an ornament, though.

What should I do? I think it will be easy to lose by just putting it into a pocket~

"Ou, Rudi! Rudius! Come here for a bit!"

"What's the matter, Boss?"

The Rudius that came from inside after being called by Oyaji-san is a slender man in his late twenties.

That would be the case~ As expected, this Oyaji-san is the boss here.

"Huh, a customer? Oy, why is Boss tending the store?"

"Rather than that, are you able to make an ornament out of this?"

"N? What is this? A stone? Although beautiful, it doesn't seem to be a gem. ..... So, Master. This is?"

“A fragment of Water Dragon’s scale.”

“Wwha!!? Seriously?”

“I have no doubts. He says he wants to make this into an ornament. You are good at that, aren’t you?”

He’s a worker here, and it seems his specialty is craftsmanship rather than smithing.

“I would like a pendant if possible, but.”

“Please, wait a moment. Umm, polishing would be best. This is weaker than silver..... Then, maybe a holy silver.....——”

Rudius-san smoothly draws a design on the paper at the counter.

It’s a pendant of a blue fragment of the scale enclosed in a metal fringe. A fine design is carved on the metal parts.

Although simple, it’s quite delicate design. I like it.

“How about this?”

“Looks wonderful. Allen, Elena, what do you think?”

“Cool~”

“Pretty~”

Allen and Elena seem to like it too.

“Can I request you to make that?”

“Because steel and silver would be defeated by this scale, I have to make it from materials that won’t lose out. Doing that will increase the price by a lot, but.....”

“What kind of material would you use for example?”

“As expected, Mithril would be the best.....”

Oh, Mithril! As expected, it’s this mineral when it comes to fantasy!

“Is the supply of the materials a problem?”

“Umm..... Boss! Is it okay to use the Mithril in the stock?”

“Yeah, there’s not enough left to make a weapon, but there should be enough for a pendant.”

The materials seem to be all right. I would like you to make it, but there’s one modification I would like to make in the design.

“I would like something other than a metal chain if possible.”

I am not fond of the jingling feeling around my neck. Therefore, something like a leather strap would be ideal if possible.

“Other than metal, huh~ If not a monster leather..... Mithril Spider’s thread would be nice~ Boss~ Can’t we somehow get our hands on it~”

“Don’t be silly! How could we obtain something so precious that easily! Even if it appears on the market, it will get immediately bought!”

Mithril Spider..... Isn’t that a rare monster than mutates after consuming Mithril?

The Mithril’s special characteristics appear on the web of the spider. Rather, it matches one of the items I have received from Syl.....

“Is this enough?”

“Eh!? Eeeeeh ＼＼!! I, isn’t that!! Mithril Spider’s threaaad~!! Why do you have it!?”

When I retrieve Mithril Spider’s thread from＼Infinite Storage＼and show it to Rudius-san, he freaks out.

“Water Dragon’s scale is one thing, but you even have Mithril Spider’s thread.....”

Boss sighs deeply.

I understood that it’s a rare material, but..... I see, so this is the normal reaction.....

I have surprised a lot of people recently, so I feel that I’m getting immune to surprises.

“Then, three of those, please.”

“Haaaaa!?”

When I take another two scale fragments, he freaks out again.

Un. I knew he would have such a reaction.

“Three you say... perhaps!?”

“It’s for these children, you know?”

If Kaiser is able to sense us because of that, I would definitely like for Allen and Elena to carry them too.

“How extravagant!”

“When it comes to Water Dragon’s scales, there are some water-related benefits, after all.”

“..... That’s certainly the case, but..... However, I really appreciate that I would be able to make goods out of these rare materials. Then, since I will be making three, can I change the design, so they are not all the same?”

“Yes, I don’t mind. Especially Elena’s... I would like this child’s design to be more girlish. Isn’t that so, Elena?”

“Yea!”

I don't mind a simple one, but Elena's should be more cute, right?

When confirming with her, she returned a positive reply. It seems a cute one would be better as expected.

"What about Allen? Do you have a request?"

"N~?"

It seems Allen doesn't have any special request. He tilted his head for a bit, then shook left and right.

The two are always in sync, but they display their individual personalities at times like these.

"Then, what do you want to do about the scales' powder that comes out during the polishing? Do you want to take it?"

"Powder? Are you not disposing of it?"

"You, that's Water Dragon's Scale, you know! Its powder is a wonderful material! Just by mixing it with molten metal while making armor will increase its hardness dramatically, you know!!"

..... I got scolded.

I see, even the powder can be used..... It seems that Kaiser's scale is just that precious.

In the end, I decided to let the shop keep the powder, and they deducted it from the fee. Kaiser wouldn't probably mind just this much powder.

Or rather, it would only collect dust in Infinite Storage if I kept it.

Once the order was complete, Rudius-san immediately returned to the back of the workshop with the materials.

With this, Kaiser's scale will be safely turned into ornaments. I can't wait for the completed goods~

## **Chapter 51**

Wicked Snake Skin and Allen's Request

"Ah, that's right. Boss, is it also possible to order protective gear made with self-brought materials?"

"Of course. What's the material? Considering it's Niichan, it must be leather and not metal?"

"Yes, that's right. Can you make it with this?"

I retrieve a part of Evil Viper's skin from Infinite Storage and show it to Boss.

I remembered that I wanted to make armor from this for myself and naturally for Allen and Elena as well.

"Wwha!? T, the hell is this!! This lustrous color. The quality of magical power..... Perhaps, is it Evil Viper!?"

"That's correct. You recognized it as well."

Boss has recognized Evil Viper at a glance.

Craftsmen are amazing. Unless I use appraisal, I can't tell from what monster the material is.

"Again! Taking out valuable things like toys. Seriously, where do you get your hands on all of this!?"

"Ah~ I have defeated that one."

Unlike Kaiser's scale, I have sold Evil Viper to the guild. Because he could find out if he checked, I answered honestly.

"What you say!? You are an adventurer? What's your rank?"

"A-Rank, more or less."

"Seriously!?"

I'm aware that I don't look strong.

However, I have asked for armor in the first place, though? Did he think that I'm not an adventurer, but just need armor for traveling?

"I thought you weren't ordinary, but..... A-Rank, huh. Even though I have thought that I had an eye for adventurers after working for so many years..... You can't judge people by their appearances, huh."

Ah, that. That's similar to the words of the Shirin's Adventurer's Guild's Guild Master. It appears that my condition is mismatched.

"Sorry..... I strayed away from the talk. So, protective armor, right? This is a rarely seen first-class material. If you want to use it, let me make it, by all means."

"Can you do Enchantment? I would like to have an automatic size adjustment, but."

Enchantment means to give weapons, armors, accessories, or tools a magic effect.

Strengthening the tools, increasing durability..... There are many kinds of magic effects.

"Enchantment, huh~..... Certainly, if you use a material like this, you would like to have Enchantment~ But, that is impossible for me. Craftsmen who would be able to do that can be found only in the capital."

“Is that so?”

I see, so it's not possible, after all~

People who can use Enchantment magic are few, to begin with. Furthermore, it rarely happens that such a person is also a production craftsman.

Even if they are not a craftsman, locating someone who can do it and asking them to apply magic is also quite difficult.

“I wanted to make boots for these children, but.....”

The boots we are wearing now is what Syl has actually prepared for us, it has automatic size, and automatic temperature adjustments, automatic repairment, dirt prevention effect, the boots are super first-class items.

However, I'm worried about the defensive aspect. Especially for Allen and Elena whose core is kicking.

Therefore, I thought of getting them battle-oriented boots that emphasized defense, but..... If the boots are made with Evil Viper's skin, they should be resistant to both physical and magical attacks.

But you see~ Allen and Elena will only grow from now on. As expected, without automatic size adjustment, the shoes will become small all too soon.

There's really no problem in making new shoes whenever they get bigger. I can earn enough money to buy good ones every time.

It's just that we live a life where we move a lot because we are not settling in one place, I won't be able to predict the timing to make new ones, the days involved in the production, etc.

But, after all, I'd like to make sure the shoes are perfect. N~ It appears that getting excellent armor is not as easy as it looks.....

“For children? That's some extravagance again. But, as the children grows, the size adjustments will be needed even more, right~ Kuu~ Even though it was finally my chance to handle a good material~”

Should I give on making the children's boots this time? The current boots are sufficient enough for now.

Besides, it seems that I will be able to find a craftsman that can do Enchantment in the capital, so I should endure until then. That person might be able to make something excellent.

Boss looks very regrettable that he can't process the Evil Viper's skin..... He's drowning in sorrow.

N~ Equipment that needs Enchantment would be impossible, but——

“My breastplate and so on——”

“Of course! Leave it to me!!”

..... I couldn't speak until the end.

I see. He wanted to use the Evil Viper skin that much.

“Also, I would like to request gloves as well.”

I would like a breastplate that could protect the heart. Ah~ But, wouldn't vest or something be better?

Also, gloves for gathering. The gloves from normal leather are enough for the moment, but it will become a necessity depending on the plants.

Herbs that release electricity when held, herbs that have to be held while blocking its magical power, there are many special plants.

I would probably want to pick them if found.

“Gloves! Those are certainly for Niichan, right?”

“Yes, that's right~ And then, a gauntlet? I would like something that could cover my arm.”

“Gauntlet? Not from metal, but leather? No, this leather is stronger than some metals, but. Or is it not a protective gear?”

“I keep a hawk. When that child lands on my arm, his claws dig in a little.”

It's alright at the moment if Bolt gently lands, but I thought I should have one just in case. I should just have one made.

“Ah, so that's it. That's just one arm then. Let's take the measurements first.”

“Ah, yes..... N?”

When Boss was about to start taking my measurements, Allen was pulling on my clothes.

“What's wrong, Allen?”

“Allen wants too~”

“N? You want gloves?”

“No. Bolt's~”

Bolt's? ..... Ah!

“Allen wants to hold Bolt on his arms as well?”

“Yea!”

Allen unusually requested something on his own.

And it being a gauntlet for Bolt, what an adorable request.

Come to think of it, he was looking at the swords and armors since we have entered this store. As a boy, he would be interested in such things, after all?

"Alright. Let's make one for Allen as well."

"Really~! Yay!"

"How about Elena?"

"N~?"

Allen was very pleased when I decided to have one made on for Allen too.

When I asked Elena if she wants a gauntlet for Bolt as well, she shook her head like she doesn't need it. On the contrary to before, Elena did not show interest this time.

"Then, Boss. Make a gauntlet for this child as well, please."

"I don't mind making it, but what do you want to do about the leather? You are surely not telling me to make this child's gauntlet from Evil Viper skin too?"

"Ah~"

I wouldn't mind it being made from Evil Viper skin just like mine, but if I tell that to Boss it would probably seem too outrageous~

"Let's see~ A material that wouldn't get pierced by the hawk's claws while being light enough to not become a burden to this child. Anything is fine, would you be able to find an appropriate one?"

If the Evil Viper skin is not used, I don't know what else may be good. It would be better to leave this to Boss.

"I see, in that case, leave it to me. That's right, why don't I make the gauntlet larger and fix the arm portion with straps? If I do that, he may keep on using it even after he grows to some extent."

"Yes. Thank you very much. Do that please."

What a delightful suggestion. It would be better if it could get adjusted with straps.

I immediately approved of Boss's suggestion.

"Allen, is there anything else you want?"

"No, is fine~!"

Oh my? He showed interest so I had thought he would like some kind of weapon or something, but..... Was he just curious?

Well, isn't that good for the moment?

I only have to buy him a weapon when he becomes bigger and interested.

After confirming our orders, we have left the store.

It will take about one week for all the items to be ready. I'm looking forward to finished products~

## **Chapter 52**

Promotion

(Hello, Takumi-san. You seem well.)

We came across a temple while strolling around the town, so I decided to stop by for the first time in a while.

When I entered inside, I went towards the stone statue and spoke to Syl as usual. Then, Syl immediately replied.

(Well, that is so. Rather than that Syl, I have heard about Allen and Elena.a)

I inform him that I know that Allen and Elena are Water God's children just in case.

Syl might have already known that I know, though.

(..... Yeah. Sorry for keeping silent about it.)

(I understand that Syl wasn't at fault.)

(Yes, thank you.)

(More importantly than that, what is Allen's and Elena's father doing?)

(.....)

Syl became silent at my question. It appears he can't tell me.

(..... I understand, I understand.)

Haah..... I won't hear more than this..... In the first place, I did not expect to hear much.

Nevertheless, Allen's and Elena's father—Just what kind of person is Water God-sama? As the appearances of Syl's statue is exactly the same, there won't probably be much difference from his statue, right?

Water God-sama's appearances are the complete opposite of Syl's androgynous-like look. He gives off a very manly impression.

Naturally, he's handsome. Besides, that. Hoso macho[Thin man with well-defined muscles]. How envious~

Muscles are something I have yearned for in a period of my life. However, since I was no good at exercising and muscles were hard to attain. Hoso macho..... that was a dream within a dream.....

Oops, the talk got off point. Umm..... right, right appearances. Allen and Elena are also good-looking. I feel like they resemble Water God..... not that much?

Honestly, I can't tell. Because the statue is all white, I can't tell hair color and such~

I have a certain feeling that Water God-sama may be happy-go-lucky. As far as looking at the communication between Syl and Water God-sama's Chief retainer. They seem to have some hardships.

Well, isn't that okay? If he butted in now and took Allen and Elena away, I would be lonely.

Ah, right, right. I wanted to ask Syl something today.

(Say, Syl. (Temporary) has disappeared from the retainer in the race row, what does that mean?)

Right. A short after meeting Kaiser and acquiring Telepathy skill, I confirmed my status. At that time, I noticed that the (Temporary) had disappeared from the race row before I noticed.

(Yeah. Takumi-san, congratulations on your promotion.)

(Haah?)

(Takumi-san has officially become my retainer~)

(Haaaa!?)

In my slightly absentminded ears, I hear Syl clapping his hands.

(It was slightly faster than I have expected~ It was almost as planned.)

..... Moreover, it was planned? You should have told me beforehand.

Rather, what is with this official retainer business! I didn't hear anything about that.

As if perceiving my mind's voice, Syl begins explaining regarding the official retainers.

(To become official retainer you see~ A symbol or perhaps should I say each has a role bestowed upon them when they become fully qualified.)

Eh, symbol? Role?

(In other words, you are giving me work?)

(N~ It's slightly different from work? In short, you look after your symbol. By the way, I'm the 'Wind'.)

(So, what about me?)

(.....)

(Syl?)

(..... It's Nurture and Education.)

(..... Eh?)

Wait a moment..... What did Syl just say? ..... Nurture and Education?

Why did something like that become my symbol? Is it related to Allen and Elena?

(Huh? But, can something like that be a symbol of Wind God's retainer?)

Because I'm Wind God's retainer, nurture and education must be under Syl's jurisdiction, right? He doesn't have such image, though.

(That's wrong! Nurture and Education is Marianora-sama's territory! It can't be helped because Takumi-san has received Marianora-sama's blessing, but~ Takumi-san is my retainer, you know? Why don't you have a role related to the wind!?)

N? What, Syl unusually lost his temper..... Did I possibly touch a subject that shouldn't be touched?

Did Syl lose his temper because my symbol is not related to the wind? Which reminds me, he was making a fuss when it came to the attribute of the contracted beast too.

But, this is not something I can fix.

(It's not as I have decided it, so there's nothing I can do, right?)

(That is true, but.....)

He's like a sulking child.....

(So, what should I do from now on?)

(Ah, yes. Umm, although you have become an official retainer, you will be alright if you continue as you were.)

(Is that so?)

(Yes. As you know, nurturing those children is a sufficient duty. You are right on the mark. Ah, right! Takumi-san, there are items for you from Fire God.)

(Haah!? Syl, wait a moment.....—)

—Piron♪

Suddenly, Syl recalled some items and sent them to me. Before I could stop him, an electric sound of atrocity resounded..... When I timidly looked at the window screen, items with fire attributes were listed one after another. And outrageous amount at that.

Again!

This is really so abrupt I don't know what's what anymore. Why is Fire God-sama sending me items?

(Syl, I don't know the reason behind this, but.....)

(It's gratitude for the development of cooking on Aetherdia.)

(N.....?)

Development of cooking..... what is he talking about?

(Takumi-san, Kashi-pan is popular in Shirin, right? Currently, far from the whole Guardia, that Kashi-pan is spreading to other countries, you know~ Also the soup called miso you have made on the expedition with the Knights. That has already become Shirin's staple product, you know!)

Eh? That's news.

I saw Kashi-pan while walking around Bailey, so I thought that it was already introduced there~ but, isn't it too early to spread to other countries?

I certainly made a miso soup during the expedition with the Knights. The Knights who tasted it asked how to make it, so I have taught them the existence of miso, but..... Not only the Knights but a staple of Shirin?

(Besides, the soy sauce dish you have cooked with will probably spread immediately as well. That will spread in no time, you know?)

(Soy sauce dish? tte, that thing, butter and soy sauce! There certainly was a queue for that, but wasn't that just because it was unusual? That's exaggerated~)

(I think that Takumi-san doesn't know, but there has been no development of cooking on Aetherdia in the last several hundred years, you know? Although there were some changes, there were no new dishes that got popular like those of Takumi-san.)

(You jest~)

That's ridiculous. There's no way there was no development in several hundred years, right?

I guess Syl is exaggerating a bit.

(There really was no development. That's why nearly every dish no matter what ingredients is salt-based.)

Certainly..... The meals we ate at the Inn were mostly seasoned with just salt.

If it's only ingredients, it's not that different from Earth, no..... it's more abundant than that. Because there are the same ingredients as on Earth, then there are ingredients that drop from monsters, the number of ingredients is absolutely higher on Aetherdia.

But, even though the dishes aren't bad, there's not much variety.

Eeh!? Then, there really was no development for several hundred years!?

(If you eat an ingredient that is□Exquisite□just as it is, people will stop devising further, after all.)

(..... I see.)

Ah~ I think I can understand that~

Rather than untactfully seasoning meat, simply seasoning it with salt may give it the best taste or a supreme fruit that's said to make you happy just by eating it as it is.

Rather than honing their cooking skills, they rather concentrate their efforts on how to obtain such ingredients.

(Because of that, the Fire God was in great joy. Cooking is Fire God's territory, after all. Therefore, that's the gratitude for that. Also, the bestowal of Fire Magic skill and contracted beast has been prepared.)

How grandiose. But, I would be glad to use fire magic. There are monsters that wind and water have a bad affinity with, after all. It's not a bad thing to have at hand.

Also, a contracted beast, huh~ Now after it has come so far, I have no problems with having one more beast. I'm just worried about what kind of child it is.

(Listen well, Takumi-san. Next time, please do your best in the wind territory, okay!)

Although Syl has reminded me of that, it's not something I can aim towards so it's impossible. Give up.

## Chapter 53

Playing in Water

""Ukyaa~""

"Wafu~" "Gau~"

The next day after arriving in the town of Bailey. I brought Allen and Elena to an unpopular coast. I had remembered that when we arrived at the sea, we have immediately met with Mirena-san and went to the mermaid village, so we couldn't thoroughly enjoy the beach.

After arriving at the sea, Allen and Elena together with the summoned Joule and Feat charged into the sea.

""Take~""

"Wafu." "Gau."

""Ukyaa~""

"Wafu~n." "Gau~"

It appears that they have begun playing in the seawater at the shallow. Allen and Elena are splashing water at Feat and Joule with both of their hands.

They are not wearing the mermaid bracelets today. Because of that, Allen and Elena who went in fully clothed are drenched from head to toes. Well, something like this may be good once in a while.

"Is Bolt not going to play?"

"Piii, pii."

He's probably saying "I will have to decline". Bolt quietly stays on my shoulder.

I gently stroke Bolt and sit on the sandy beach while watching the children play.

"Wafu." "Gau."

""Hiya~""

Ah, Joule and Feat threw themselves on Allen and Elena, and a light basha~n noise resounded from the sea.

Oh boy. Well, Joule, and Feat didn't throw themselves on them with their full power, so they are probably not injured.

—Buruburuburuburu.

""Unya~!!""

When Allen and Elena got up, Joule and Feat shook, and all of the water in their fur flew out.

Ah~ That will of course splash water everywhere.....

After finishing splashing water, Joule and Feat run away at full speed.

"Joule!!"

"Feat!!"

Allen and Elena began chasing after Joule and Feat who ran away.

Because Joule and Feat are not running away seriously, Allen and Elena catch up immediately, jump on and hug the backs of the two animals.

""Caught~""

Well, they usually act as ordinary pets, but they are without a doubt, S-Rank beasts. If Joule and Feat were escaping seriously, as expected Allen and Elena wouldn't be able to catch them so easily.

""Kyaa~""

“Wafu.” “Gau.”

This time, Allen and Elena started running away. Joule and Feat chase after them. That's definitely the game of tag.

“Ah, crab~”

While running around, chasing each other, a Sand Crab appeared before the two children and two animals.

“Wafu.”

It was Joule's turn to escape this time, so the Sand Crab got blown away by the legs of the running Joule. Peshi, Joule just lightly touched it with its forepaw. And yet, the Sand Crab got blown off and ceased to move.

Oi, oi, that was heartless just now..... it felt as if Joule was walking along the road and kicked a pebble. The opponent was a monster, but being knocked down before the battle even started is somewhat pitiful.

“Pii.”

Bolt caught the Sand Crab that washed ashore in its feet and brought it to me.

It seems that both Joule and Bolt are pleased with the securing of the spoils of war. Let's at least make something delicious from it.

—Basha

“Whoa!!”

W, what!?

The weather was nice and warm, so I have apparently dozed off a little. Then, a lot of water was came flying towards me..... I'm drenched from head to toes.

“Ehehehe~”

“Wafu~” “Gau~”

We have done it, I saw children making such expressions. It seems that the children have splashed me with water.

“Piii.”

Bolt has cried in a worry, but Bolt himself shrewdly evacuated. If you had enough time to evacuate, I would like you to inform me as well.....

“Hey, you guys!”

“Ukya~”

“Wafu~” “Gau~”

When I stood up, pretending to be angry, they have entered the sea. Then, the two children and two animals escape while swimming. Seeing how good time they have, they must know that I'm not really mad.

I stop at the depth where the water hits my knees, manipulate the seawater with water magic and make a large wave. I send that wave towards the children.

It's that. The wave pool that's in certain water parks. It has such feeling.

The wave washes the children bodies which floated on the sea surface ashore.

""Kyahaha~""

Allen and Elena were smiling after being swept by a wave. It seems they found it amusing.

"Onii~cha~n♪"

"One mo~re♪"

Allen and Elena who were carried ashore swam back to the open sea and requested me to do it again.

"Here, it's coming~"

""Ye~s."""

I make a wave with magic one more time, and the wave carries Allen and Elena back.

""Kyahaha~""

Allen's and Elena's laughter resounded again.

Because they apparently liked it, they asked me "One more time" "One more time" many times over. Answering to their request, I repeat using water magic. This is unexpectedly good practice for water magic. After repeating it around ten times——

——Piron♪

"Oh."

This sound..... has the contracted beast that the Fire God sent arrived?

## **Chapter 54**

Man-Eating Lion

I heard an electric sound just like when Feat and Bolt came, a big animal appeared in my field of vision and then it approached me.

"Hah!?"

..... Surely..... not?

A big lion with red fur has appeared in front of me.

Elephant size? Ah but, I have never seen an elephant up close so I can't say for sure. But, it would be at least such size.

□□□□

Status

Name: —

Race: Scarlet King Leo (Takumi's Contracted beast)

Occupation: Fighter

Age: 7

Level: 33

Skills

- Fire Magic
- Claw Slash
- Roar
- Charge
- Crush
- Shrink
- Night Vision
- Presence Detection

□□□□

Whoa~..... an outrageous animal has turned up.

When I immediately check using appraisal, it's without a doubt the contracted beast that the Flame God-sama has sent for me.

Scarlet King Leo is an S-Rank monster. Moreover, it's ferocious monster often called with names such as "Man-Eating Lion", "Bloodthirsty Lion" or "Red Devil".

I have nothing to criticize about its fighting power, but..... this, I can't possibly take it along?

No matter how you look, isn't it a target of fear?

"You have been sent by the Fire God-sama, right?"

"Garuru."

Yep, just a little purr is so powerful because of its size.

"Ah~ Best regards. Umm, right..... Vector. You are Vector."

"Garu."

Is he happy? It looks fierce, but isn't it unexpectedly affable?

“Ah~ Vector. Could you become smaller? I can’t see your face like this.”

“Garu.”

When I said so, Vector shone slightly and turned into a large-breed dog size lion.

A~..... Vector’s appearances are very characteristic so even though he became the size of a large dog, he’s still a red lion.

..... This, won’t it be revealed right away that he’s Scarlet King Leo even though he became small?

”Vector~?”

“Garu.”

Before I noticed, Allen and Elena approached Vector. Not only the children, even the senior contracted beasts came near.

“Allen, Elena. Vector is also one of our children starting today. Get along well~”

”Yea.”

“Joule, Feat, and Bolt too. It’s our new companion. Be good to each other~”

“Wafu.” “Gau.” “Pii.”

Putting aside the appearances, I prepare a collar for Vector at once. Would a matching one with Joule and others alright?

◇ ◇ ◇

When I got out of the sea, I fixed our soaking wet appearances with life magic’s Washing and Dry.

After that I prepared the magic tools for Vector——A similar collar and bracelet Joule and Feat have.

“Here comes~ There~”

“Wafu.”

“Here as well~ There~”

“Gau.”

Vector became completely familiar with everyone and begun to play on the sandy beach.

Right now, Allen and Elena are throwing balls made of wood, and the contracted beasts are fetching them.

“Vector too~”

“Here comes~”

“Garu.”

After Joule's and Feat's turn, it was Vector's turn next. But——

““Huh~?””

“O, oi? Vector, where are you going~?”

Vector went past the thrown ball and started vigorously running. And then, he suddenly disappeared from my sight.

Should I chase after him? While thinking so, Vector immediately returned.

“.....?”

N? Vector is holding something in his mouth..... Wwha!!?

“Whoa! Vector. What's that in your mouth!?

Vector came with a person in his mouth.

It's a woman. Vector holds a woman by the nape of her neck and running while dragging her body along.

When seen from afar, I thought it was blood because I saw red. However, it wasn't blood, but her long red hair.

Don't startle me like that..... I thought for a moment that Vector had bitten a person to death.

When Vector returned to my side, goron, he dropped the person in his mouth on the ground.

“He, hey! Are you all right!?”

I confirm the woman's safety in a panic.

There was no response when I shook with her. It's no doubt that she's alive, but..... has she blacked out?

“..... Zzz.”

No, wrong..... she's sleeping... huh.....

““Sleeping~?””

“..... Seems like it.”

Munyamunya, I can hear a faint sleeper's breath. How can she sleep so soundly in such situation?

This, is she really just sleeping? But, I don't see any external wounds~

“Uu..... hungry.....”

..... Moreover, it appears that she's hungry. How carefree~

First of all, let's confirm her status——

个人信息

#### Status

Name: Vivian

Race: Demon (Vampire)

Occupation: Operative

Age: 147

Level: 54

#### Skills

- Dagger Technique
- Throwing
- Darkness Magic
- Life Magic
- Dismantling
- Fathom
- Concealment
- Leap
- Stealthy Steps
- Night vision
- Lockpicking
- Trap Disarm
- Compounding
- Magic Attack Resistance
- Abnormal Status Resistance

#### Titles

- Red Rose Princess

评价

Truly startling contents.

Rather, she's a demon! Moreover, a vampire!

Demons on Aetherdia have the same treatment as the coexisting Elves and Dwarves. Hostile against humans or worshipping Maou that wants to destroy the world..... they are not such beings. There are just fewer in numbers than other races while living longer lives.

At a glance, this person is no different from a human. Moreover, she seems to be of the same generation as me, yet she's 147 years old. How long was the life span of vampire again? Were they able to easily live past a millennium?

Her skill composition is incredible!

It may be just my imagination, but her skills are as if an assassination was her family business. She's actually an operative.

"Vector, was this person collapsed over there?"

"Garu."

"I see."

Vector purred proudly for some reason. He probably tried to give a helping hand.

"But, Vector. Dragging along is no good. This is a sandy beach, you could have injured her."

"Garu~n..."

Vector is obviously disheartened.

"N, no, I'm not angry. Be more careful next time, okay?"

"Garu!"

I'm not angry, but I must discipline him, so he doesn't go around picking up strange things. I thought such.

Nevertheless, what to do about this person.....

——Guu~~~

.....

It's almost noon, shall I prepare the lunch~

The meal would get covered with sand here so let's move somewhere else first.....

## **Chapter 55**

Revenge

This happened a few days after arriving at the town of Shirin.

◆◆◆

"Excuse me."

"Ou, welcome."

"I heard you sell white wheat here, do you have it?"

"White wheat? We have it."

Right. White wheat! Today, I have come to purchase rice.

White wheat is not popular, so people who know of it and stores that sell it are few, so I had troubles finding it. I visited a store from a store and finally found it.

I got onigiri and boiled rice from Syl, but it wasn't that much. I'm glad I could find it before running out.

I don't dislike bread, but as expected, as a Japanese, I want to regularly eat rice.

"What Niisan, you keep cattle?"

"No. That's not the case, but can I purchase it?"

"Ou. That's no problem. I will bring it, wait a moment."

As expected, it appears that White wheat does not have any other use than feeding the domestic animals. Therefore, rather than saying that I'm going to "eat it" and being looked at with strange eyes, it's better to deceive somehow.

The shopkeeper brought a jute bag with White wheat from inside the store. From the looks of it, it's about five kg.

"Is that alright?"

When I confirm the bag contents, it's indeed rice!

Neatly polished white grains of rice was inside the bag. I imagined it would have rice husks, or it would not be unpolished, but it's unexpectedly in a good bearing.

This can be used immediately.

"I would like a little more, but do you have more?"

"I don't mind. How much would you like?"

"..... How much are you selling?"

If it can be bought, I want to secure rather a lot.

Because there's no quality improvement, I think that the taste will be less than that of Japan's rice, but it's better than life without rice.

Even if it's not good to eat as white rice, depending on the seasonings, risotto or Chinese fried rice should be no problem.

"We have currently four bags in the store altogether. There's no problem selling all of it. We would have to stock up for more which would take time."

Four bags..... around twenty kg, huh.

"If there's no problem selling them, I will purchase all four bags."

"Ooh, I alright. I will carry them out."

I buy out all White wheat from the store and leave the store chuckling to myself.

◇ ◇ ◇

“Now then, since there’s no rice cooker, it’s the pot. Can I do it well, I wonder.....”

I started preparing outside the city to try making rice with White wheat.

—Piron♪

N?

Before I even tried to start to cook the rice, I heard an electrical sound inside my head.

“It’s Syl, isn’t it? ..... Open.”

When I opened the menu screen, a new item has appeared on the item list.

“Ooh, this is!”

Rice cooker! A rice cooker that uses fire magic stone instead of electrical outlets has been delivered to me. Usage is the same as the electrical one, insert rice and water and switch on! It appears to automatically stop when the rice is done.

It seems that it can’t retain the warmth because it’s just a tool to cook, but this is still wonderful.

Gratitude to Syl! Thank you!!

After immediately taking it out of Infinite Storage and using it, the rice was done in ten minutes. It’s faster than fast cooking! Very wonderful!

“Hot..... ngu.”

I tried eating cooked rice right away.

Ah, it tastes normal. It won’t be a problem using it like white rice.

“Allen, Elena. Ahh~”

Allen and Elena were fixedly jii~... staring at me, so when I presented the spoon with rice in front of them, the two pakan opened their mouths. They look like little chicks wanting to get fed.

When I put the rice in each’s mouth, the two mogumogu savor the taste.

“How is it?”

“”..... Delish~””

“I see. I’m glad.”

Allen and Elena smile slightly.

I think that I’m really glad that rice suits the two’s tastes. I would prepare something different for them if they didn’t like it, but as expected, I would be a little sad if they didn’t like rice.

Now then, shall I make the remaining rice into easy to eat onigiri?

However, there's no nori. Moreover, I'm worried that the salt won't hold it together, so I'd like to at least use as a garnish... garnish, huh..... because I have not obtained ingredients for seafood yet, I don't have salmon or cod..... for the same reason okaka, kombu, and seaweed can't be cooked.

Tuna-mayo..... I don't have tuna. Rather, how do you prepare tuna? Soak the tuna fillet in oil and heat at a low temperature? Let's try after getting my hands on tuna.

Tenmusu? Again..... shrimps are also ingredients from the sea.....

Thinking like this, there are many ingredients of the sea used with rice, aren't there~

Other than sea..... umeboshi? I do have plum-like fruit, but it's no umeboshi.

Leaf mustard? I have something resembling which it could be made from, but I'm bad at it so it's rejected.

I need to prepare chicken while cooking rice. It's not possible this time, but the ingredients are likely to gather, so let's try next time.

Muu~ What else is thereee? I unexpectedly can't remember.....

◆◆◆

In the end, I had no choice, but to preserve the rice in the Infinite Storage that day.

Therefore, with the ingredients I have bought at the harbor's morning market, I will take my revenge!

What I'm preparing is a grilled salmon-like fish.

I made a fake tuna-mayo with a tinge of red slices of tuna-like fish. I think it turned out quite well.

The rest is seasoned with minced kombu and soy sauce. I finely chopped the katsuobushi in order to prepare okaka.

I have also prepared a nori-looking seaweed. First, I washed the seaweed well, finely chopped it, stretched it thin and flat, removed the moisture with water magic, and dried it using life magic's Dry.

The texture was a little rough, but it turned out to be proper nori. You can do it if you try!

Now then, let's cook the rice. I prepared the ingredients and nori. Ah, also the salt. I splurged a little and bought the best salt.

Now then, all that's left is to shape it!

"Alright, it's done!"

After shaping a large amount of onigiri, I made a soup using the Sand Crab's legs.

"Everyone~ The meal is done~"

“”Mea~!””

“Kyan.” “Na~” “Pii.” “Garu.”

To my call, the children were playing slightly further away, rushed back all at once.

Because I don't know when Vivian-san will wake up, I had Joule and Feat turn into their small forms and gave up on Bolt's and Vector's situation.

I'm thinking of deceiving by saying that I contracted them when they were weakened or when they were small.

“..... Zzz..... N? Meal!?”

While thinking so, Vivian-san has awakened.

“Meal. Where is the meal~?”

Somehow... although beauty, she feels like a woman with a plenty of unfortunates.....

## Chapter 56

Regrettable Beauty

“”Itadakima~su.””

“Kyan.” “Na~” “Pii.” “Garu.”

Allen and Elena began eating the onigiri and soup slowly on the plates I served in front of them after doing before meal manners.

The Contracted beasts properly imitated the two and begun eating.

When I saw everyone start to eat, I offered onigiri and soup to Vivian-san who was enviously looking at the children.

“Is that okay!? Wow~ Thank you.”

Because the children started eating first, Vivian-san was able to judge that onigiri is food, but “I wonder what this is.....” she started eating after hesitating. However, after two, three bites, she started stuffing her cheeks in a trance.

Hagu, hagu..... ngun, gu.....

She offered the onigiri to her stomach with great vigor. Ham, ham, ham, such sound effects could be heard.

“Allen, Elena. These are yours, so eat slowly, okay?”

It appears Allen and Elena thought that the unrestricted Vivian-san would eat even their shares. They sped up their eating speed in a hurry.

But, the two became relieved after my caution and nodded while chewing with stuffed cheeks, restoring their pace of eating.

"By the way, it seems you collapsed because of hunger, but what happened?"

"Ngu! Ngun, gu!"

"No..... it's fine after you finish eating....."

"Ngu!"

When I asked what happened, Vivian-san started talking with her mouth crammed with onigiri.

I have no idea what she's saying, her manners are bad. Because it's no good for Allen and Elena to imitate her, I decided to talk after the meal.

Then, Vivia-san resumed eating silently.

Nonetheless, she can eat well.....

"My~ I'm stuffed~ Thank you for the meal."

The massive amount of onigiri disappeared just like that.

"Ah, I'm called Vivian. Vivi or Vivian, call me however you like. Incidentally, what was that from a little while ago~ I have never eaten something like that~"

"Yeah, it's white wheat cooked in water."

"White wheat, is it? That feed for domestic animals?"

Ah, I did it now..... rice on Aetherdia is used as feed for domestic animals, isn't it? I completely forgot.

"I'm sorry. Because we eat White White as everyday meals in my hometown, I ended up offering it to you without thinking. Have I offended you?"

"No, no. It was delicious, so there's no problem. Nevertheless, the white wheat, huh~ I have no idea it was something so delicious~"

Even after hearing about the white wheat, Vivian-san wasn't offended. Rather, she seems to have liked it. I'm glad.....

I have to be more careful about what I offer to people from now on. Some people would misunderstand or be insulted, after all.

"Oh my~ Oniisan is skilled at cooking, aren't you~ Huh? Oniisan? Or is it Papa?"

Before I noticed, Vivian-san was talking to Allen and Elena.

"".....? Onii~chan."

Allen and Elena who should not have any vigilance towards Vivian-san hesitated for a moment and answered.

..... I wonder what happened?

Since Vivian-san is here, I shouldn't haste to confirm. I must not forget to check later.

"So it was Oniisan~ But, the reaction was bad, wasn't it~ Are you perhaps, in fact, Papa?"

"I'm the elder brother....."

It seems Vivian-san noticed Allen and Elena hesitating too.

Rather, what is she thinking, this person.....

"I'm sorry~ People's secrets are my favorite food! Uncovering hidden things is fun, isn't it~"

"....."

Vivian-san——no, just Vivian, should be fine now.....

Vivian notices my "amazement" and starts speaking even more.

I don't think it can be called impressive, but well, it's most likely "Hobby=Work" in her case.

"So, why did you collapse, Vivian?"

"Well~ I wonder why?"

"..... Don't ask me."

..... This person, is she playing around?

"Umm, umm..... ah, that's right! I have remembered! I have moved out of the town, but I forgot to purchase food. That's why I endured on the local procurement, but there was no harvest for the past two, three days....."

"When you notice you don't have food, return to the town!"

"Ooh! That's certainly true. Iya~ I will somehow manage~ I thought so and didn't pay further attention to it!"

"....."

"Right, right, I have to report in Albert Town for my work, but where is this?"

"..... Here is nearby of the town of Bailey."

"Huhh?"

Albert Town is in the east of Bailey, it's a town in the south of the royal capital.

I don't know which town Vivian has departed from, but if she didn't cross the sea on a ship from a foreign country, being in Bailey's surroundings is strange.

"How strange? Well but, I still have plenty of time to report, so it will be okay! Right, right, this time's job was too easy~ I had to do a background investigation on the marriage partner of a certain noble lady, but the target of the investigation was a man. Surprisingly, he kept a commoner's daughter in the house! That was so impressive~ He had no intention to hide it. The story came out just after asking a servant a little. Honestly, I didn't even have to infiltrate as a servant~"

No, I have not asked about the contents of your work..... why have you stuck out your tongue out after talking!

"Oops, even though I have time to report, I shouldn't take it too slow, right? Then, I'm going okay~ Ah, right. This is my thanks for the meal."

Vivian who suddenly stood unfastened the bag on her waist and presented me several small bottles filled with some liquids.

"You don't have to mind it really."

"No, no, please accept it."

Vivan forcibly pushed the small bottles in my hands.

..... I wonder what this is?

□□□□

Drops of Crimson Rose

A vampire specially made aphrodisiac.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately four to five hours.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

□□□□

□□□□

Drops of White Rose

A vampire specially made energy drug.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately four to five hours.

Excellent product with no side effects. Men exclusive use.

□□□□

Wwha!!?

I got astonished after appraising the small bottles.

"Hey! This!!"

"Ah, looks like you know what kind of medicine it is. This is a medicine I made, but the effect is exceptional, it's quite popular~ Please, try it by all means. Njaa, thank you for the meal~"

"Oi, wait!"

Vivian departed with quick movements.

""Gone~?""

"Yeah....."

Seriously, what's with that fellow..... besides, what am I supposed to do with this.....

I, haah..... sigh and store the small bottles in the Infinite Storage. I have decided to hoard it in the Infinite Storage as it is.

""..... Onii~chan."""

"What is it?"

""What is Papa~? """

"Eh?"

When I hang down my head dejectedly, Allen and Elena asked me a surprising question.

Surely not..... but..... perhaps.....?

"..... Umm, Allen, Elena, do you know who a father or a dad is?"

Allen and Elena shake their heads to my question.

Oh crap~..... these two don't know about something like family..... so this is why they hesitated to Vivian's question.....

I see, well, of course, ~ They had no one to teach them, so they don't know~

I thought the two knew because they called me "Onii~chan" as if it was natural.

Ah, I see. The towns' people—especially Obaasan from the inn or the stores called out to Allen and Elena, but they also asked things such as "Are you going out with your Oniichan?" or "Oniisan, how about this for the children?" many times. Allen and Elena who heard that ended up calling me Oniichan.....

"..... Umm, Papa is a dad and that's——"

First of all, I decided to not teach them only about Otousan, but also about mother and siblings.

However, explaining is unexpectedly much harder than I thought.....

## **Chapter 57**

### Undiscovered Uproar

When we returned to the town from the sea, we made our way to the Adventurer's Guild.

In order to learn about the materials around this town and to receive gathering requests for the materials, we have on hand.

I'm not troubled about money, but we receive requests regularly. You see, there is a qualification invalidation term, right? Although I have three years to spare until the term, I would like to get into a habit of receiving requests.

After entering the guild, I first went to the requesting board, picked up a few requests after checking my materials and the requested materials and then lined up in the reception queue.

As it's already evening, there are plenty of adventurers who have returned from work.

"Hello. Are you here to request a job?"

When my turn came, the receptionist woman greeted me. Apparently, I don't look like an adventurer but someone who came to find a job..... Well, it can't be helped.

I present my guild card at the counter.

"No. I'd like to accept this request."

"I'm sorry. So you were an adventurer. I have not seen you here before."

"I have just arrived in this town the other day."

"Is that so? Then, I will hold on this for a moment."

When the receptionist woman received the guild card, she started operating the crystal plate.

While she works, I take out the materials written on the requests and line them up on the counter.

"Eh! A-rank!?"

"Well, more or less....."

"Pardon my rudeness. Are all these materials matching the requests?"

"Yes, I have them all."

"I will verify."

The receptionist woman was surprised that I was an A-rank, but she immediately started checking the material. But, the receptionist woman who begun to work suddenly loudly shouted.

“Kyaa ツツツツ!!!”

“!?”

“”Hiyaa.””

I was startled by her shriek like voice. Allen and Elena got startled as well as they cling to my leg.

“D, dungeon~! Y, you have discovered a new dungeon!?”

“Hah!?”

To my surprise, the receptionist woman shouted again.

It appears that she happened to see my Dungeon record while processing the material.

Still, what did she just say? New dungeon?

We have been only in the “Dungeon fo Earth” in Shirin and the “Dungeon of Ripples” which we went into a few days ago.

—That means, the Dungeon of Ripples was an undiscovered dungeon.....

There are 108 dungeons on Aetherdia.

I know about all dungeons, but I am not aware of which are publicly known.

I should have checked it.....

We have unconsciously stepped into an undiscovered dungeon, and the trace was left listed on the guild card.....

Is this bad? ..... No, it's all right. I can deceive!

The entrance was in the sea, but it's quite easy to discover when diving..... un, it will be alright.

□We accidentally found it when playing in the sea□Let's go with that!

It's true anyway that we found it accidentally while swimming in the sea.

“Karen, what is it about a new dungeon?”

“T, this gentleman's Dungeon record has '53rd Dungeon Ripples'entry recorded on it~”

“What!? —T, this is!”

When a male guild staff member ran up to the receptionist woman——Karen-san, he raised his voice in surprise.

Seeing the man's reaction, the other staff members gathered around, infecting the guild with noise.

Aah~..... even the adventurers in the guild have noticed now.....

"Takumi-sama, is it really a dungeon!?"

".....?"

..... Eh? What's that, what does she mean?

"You fool, Karen! What are you saying! It's naturally a dungeon since it's listed on the guild card!!"

"It might not be a dungeon" worry?

No, in the first place, I can't orally report the discovery of a new dungeon.

By seeing it recorded on the guild card, the doubts that would float around will disappear.

Rather, this is more or less personal information, isn't it? I would like them to stop shouting so loudly, though..... where did the information concealment go?

"However, Shawn-san! Discovering a new dungeon is something very important."

"I know how important it is more than you!"

"But, but~"

"Karen, you stay quiet! What you are saying is unreasonable!"

"No, no, Shawn-san's tension is ridiculous?"

Ah~..... can I already go? It's fine, right?

Allen and Elena are withering under the surrounding's attention.....

First of all, let's clean up the things I took ou——

"W, wait a moment, please! What are you doing!?"

Tsk! She noticed. I thought about stealthily escaping, but Karen-san has noticed.....

"I'm leaving. Ah, return my guild card, please."

"Wha!! What are you doing! You can't do that!"

Because I couldn't escape, I seriously told my intentions. Karen-san holds my guild card in her hands, not willing to return it.

I'm hesitant to leave behind my ID, but..... shall I go as I am?

——I thought such, but before I noticed, the people that gathered around formed a barricade.

Although they have a reasonable distance, because they are all men with good builds, breaking through would be difficult.

Allen and Elena wither because of surroundings even more..... no, they are frightened.

I look at Karen-san while stroking Allen's and Elena's shoulder to soothe them.

"Why can't I leave?"

"Why, you ask..... I, I mean, you have discovered a new dungeon? You have to tell us all about it!"

"Don't wanna."

"Eh!"

"Although it's a thing to be surprised about, I don't want to talk to someone who irresponsibly shouts someone's personal information."

"Eeeh!?"

There's no doubt that Dungeon record is personal information. And yet, the staff who have the obligation to conceal it shouted out loud its contents.

People who were in the guild have totally paid attention to what was said and already found out about the new dungeon.

Because of my remark of not wanting to tell the guild, the people around started talking things such as "Does he plans to monopolize it?" or "No, he even had the first taste.....".

Disclosing personal information without the consent of the person in question.  
N~.....

"Or did the rule of guild staff member's 'Can't reveal personal information to others' got annulled without my knowledge?"

"..... Ugu."

Hearing my words, Karen-san's face gradually turned blue.

There's no way such an important rule got abolished. I'm sure Karen-san made a violation of her duties.

The male staff member—Shawn-san and other staff members made awkward expressions as well.

They have not rebuked Karen-san, they instead take advantage and rode on the opportunity with her.

Regarding that dungeon, it won't be a problem even if it gets exposed—rather, I am troubled that it was exposed in this way, it's a serious situation.

For instance, if it were "Allen and Elena captured advanced level dungeon"..... she would certainly be surprised, right? At that time, the two would get exposed and place them in a troublesome situation.

It's just an example, but it may certainly happen one day.....

Rather, Request record has already record of transaction of Gaya Forest's materials. She has probably not looked properly yet, but it would be a noise making record when she does.

I have to keep it in control before that!

"What is this ruckus!!"

""Gu, guild master!!"

In the meanwhile, overhearing the ruckus, a solidly built man in his fifties walks from the inner part of the guild. He has a former adventurer feeling around him?

He appears to be the guild master here.

## **Chapter 58**

Apology and Information Provision

"Are you the cause of the ruckus?"

The guild master clearly said that while looking at me.

Well, I'm confronting the staff members, and other adventurers are surrounding me. It can't be helped that I'm seen like that.

"You might say that I'm the cause, but I'm not the one who started it."

"What do you mean?"

"It started because these staff members shouted out loud our personal information."

"What!? Is that true!!"

At my complaint, the guild master vigorously turned towards his subordinates.

"Ah..... umm....."

"What is it! Speak clearly!!"

"B, because there was information about a new dungeon, I unconsciously screamed out!! I'm terribly sorry!!"

Karen-san frightened by the guild master's angry voice reported about the dungeon while bowing down.

"What!? ..... Is that story true?"

"Ye, yes. It's certainly stated in this person's Dungeon record."

"Which is it?"

"This one~"

Oi, guild master. You shouldn't be confirming Dungeon record in this situation.....

"So, where is this dungeon?"

"That is..... umm..... he doesn't want to tell....."

"..... Is that so? Why?"

"Therefore!! Please don't divert the problem. I'm not saying that I don't want to tell the location of the dungeon. I just don't want to tell it to an organization that discloses personal information!!"

Because the discussion seemed to go off track, I immediately argued vehemently.

Seriously, I would like you not to forget that!

"....."

All the staff members were silent.

"Umm, you see..... that....."

"Anyhow, lead me to a separate room first please!"

"That's right, sorry. Could you follow to my office?"

The guild master shows me to his office while awkwardly scratching his cheek.

Haa..... let's go for now.....

Ah~ Even though I came to the guild in order to sell materials, thinking it would be immediately over..... the ruckus took more time than was planned.

It's almost time for a meal~ Rather than reporting the dungeon, Allen's and Elena's meal is more important.....

However, it doesn't look like I will be able to leave without reporting. Will I be able to leave faster if I report this quickly?

Haa.....

◇ ◇ ◇

We were guided to the guild master's office.

Our fellow travelers include guild master, Karen-san and another three staff members.

"First of all, including me, our staff members want to apologize."

""""We are sorry.""""

When we settle in the office's sofa, the guild master and the staff members give words of apology simultaneously.

“Even if it was a discovery of a new dungeon, that remark in such place was absurd. I’m really sorry.”

They really seemed to think they were at fault and apologized sincerely.

“I would like to hear the details properly later, but..... that, um.....”

“Suspension or salary cut, is it?”

“..... Yeah, that’s right. Would be asking to pardon the dismissal too much as expected?”

“I don’t care. I would just like to ask you not to disclose personal information next time.”

“Of course. I will teach them properly.”

When I accept, Karen-san was obviously relieved.

As for me, as long as the information management is solid, I don’t mind using the guild policy for the treatment of staff. I’d like to avoid awkward relations with the guild. I plan to use the guild in the future as well.

At any rate, since it’s impossible to hide the information that has flowed, it would be better to sell as much kindness to the guild as possible.

Well, I won’t forgive them next time, though!

“Ah~ Then.....”

“The dungeon, is it?”

“That’s right. In a case that a new dungeon was discovered..... since the location is clearly indicated on the guild card this time, the feudal lord would be notified about the discovery, he would dispatch his people, and those will confirm the location with the guild.”

Hee~ The feudal lord is immediately notified about a new dungeon~

But, if the discoverer didn’t have a guild card, that discoverer would be the only evidence, so it seems that the guild would investigate before notifying the feudal lord.

“You will be rewarded with a prize if the country officially recognizes it. Of course, if you present the guild with information about the dungeon, you will also receive a reward from the guild.”

Since the existence of the dungeon has already spread, there’s no need to hesitate. If I hide things, I would get entangled with some weird fellows.

Well, I don’t really care about the prize from the country, though.....

“I understand. I will tell you.”

“Really!”

"Yes. The dungeon is '53rd Ripples'. It's an intermediate difficulty dungeon with 30 floors. It appears to be a dungeon of a water attribute."

"Water attribute!"

I report the basic information first. Most of it is recorded on the guild card, so I think anyone would understand after looking, but just in case.

About the attribute, I'm pretty sure it's "water."

"The place is along the coast, east side of the town. Do you know of the largish reef in the sea about ten minutes by foot from the shore?"

"Yeah. It's the one not far away from the beach, right?"

Yes, that's right."

Whether because it's close to the town, guild master immediately grasped the location.

"There is an entrance to the dungeon in that rock."

"What!?"

"Eh?"

"This close!?"

"No way....."

Hearing about the entrance to the dungeon in the reef, the guild staff were taken aback by its closeness.

Because it had not been discovered so far, I thought it was in a place where people could not go.

"Incidentally, the entrance is in the sea."

"What a thing....."

Everyone hangs their heads this time. They are all people with rich reactions.....

"Yeah, also, it's about 50 meters of a complete channel to the entrance. If you'd like to confirm, it would be necessary for me to accompany you."

"What?"

"Because there's no place to take a breath, you can only advance while holding it. If you can't prepare a necessary magic tool, you better choose the right person to investigate."

"....."

I think that the person who would go for the investigation would be someone who is used to move around, but if by chance it's a person with an office job, he wouldn't be able to follow.

“How did you enter?”

“I have confidence in my lung capacity.”

“I, is that so.....”

Because it's not like the mermaid bracelet is not around at all, it should be all right to tell about it, but I decided to keep it hidden for the time being. I would be troubled if they asked the source, after all.

“..... Takumi-san is A-rank, after all. That much surely wouldn't be trouble.”

“”A-rank!?””

When Karen-san muttered in admiration, other members reacted.

Yeah, they weren't aware of my rank. However, guild master..... didn't you see the crystal as well? Well, having his eyes nailed on the Dungeon record it's probably natural that he didn't notice.....

I was slightly amazed and let out a sigh.

“”Onii~chan, hungry~””

Allen and Elena interrupt the conversation by pulling on my clothes and stating their hunger.

“I'm sorry~ We have already finished, shall we go for a meal?”

“”Yeah.”

“Well then, it's all right to end the story about the dungeon here, isn't it?”

I decided to cut off the discussion immediately. Fortunately, I have finished providing the minimum necessary information.

“Well then, we will excuse ourselves here. Allen, Elena, let's go~”

“”Ye~s.””

“Eh? Wai..... oi!?”

I have heard the guild master trying to stop me, but I ignored that and promptly left the office with Allen and Elena.

When I returned to the guild hall, the adventurers who heard about the dungeon were waiting. Because I wouldn't like to be caught by those people, I told them “I had told the guild the location of the dungeon, so please ask them”.

Would it be all right for now like this?

Now then, the meal, the meal. Where shall we have the dinner?

## Chapter 59

Feudal Lord of Bailey

The next day.

After eating breakfast in the dining room of the inn, we were relaxing in the room.

Then, the sub-master of the Adventurer's Guild came to visit.

Apparently, they went to the dungeon overnight or early in the morning and seemed to have finished checking.

The dungeon is nearby after all. Just going to take a look shouldn't take much time.

And they are on their way to report to the feudal lord now. It seems they have applied for an appointment yesterday and decided on meeting this morning.

So, we were told to go along. "Why me as well?" when I asked, "What is the discoverer asking about!!" I got scolded.

No, I wasn't aware I have to accompany you.

That being the case, we have arrived at the lord's mansion.

Well, I really didn't feel like resisting and thought that saying hello to the feudal lord might not be bad, so I went along obediently, though.

Thus, after being shown to a room and told to wait, a middle-aged man in his thirties along with an elderly man soon entered the room.

I have not used appraisal, but judging by the garments, the young man looks more like the Feudal Lord-sama. But this person, haven't I seen him before somewhere.....

"You are Takumi-san? How do you do? Cedric Risner is my name."

"Eh? ..... Risner?"

Feudal Lord-sama speaks as if he knew about me.

I have not met him before, but his surname is Risner. And his silver hair and grayish blue eyes, perhaps.....?

"Oh my? Have you not heard from Isaac?"

"..... He said you are only Acquaintances."

"That fellow again..... I'm really sorry for my younger brother. He surely kept silent to surprise you."

Younger brother!!

That means this Feudal Lord-sama is Shirin's Knights Order's Risner-sama's brother!

Ah, I see. That's why Risner-sama wrote me a letter of introduction when I told him that I'm going to Bailey~

I was a little bit surprised that Risner-sama was the one who wrote me the letter of introduction since Derrick-sama and Wald-sama who are of a high peerage rank, and the advisor of the order Callan-sama were there.

At that time, I simply thought that he was just writing to someone he knows.

I thought that Risner-sama had a good relationship with the Feudal Lord-sama of Bailey judging by his way of speech..... but, to think they were family.....

If they are relatives, Risner-sama was the most suitable to write a letter of introduction, wasn't he?

"In Shirin, Risner-sama..... I am indebted to Isaac-sama very much."

"No, no, it was in a letter, but I inquired about Takumi-san. You are Isaac's lifesaver. Thank you very much for helping my brother."

"Ah, raise your head please!!"

I was surprised at him suddenly lowering his head right after greeting me. I hurry up and stop Oniisan.

"It is I who should thank Risner-sama..... ah~ I'm sorry. Is it alright to call you Cedric-sama?"

Ah~..... it would be confusing calling both brothers Risner-sama..... however, calling him by his name without permission would be impolite. First, let's ask for permission.....

"Yes, certainly. Honorifics are unnecessary too."

"No, that much is....."

"Then, let's settle on "san." Of course, I don't mind if you call Isaac that way as well. I give you permission as his elder brother."

"No, but....."

"Let's get along."

He has a gentle smile, but an overbearing way of calling has been decided. Un, it doesn't seem that I will be able to refuse.

But, it would be impossible without honorifics, so please forgive me for adding "san."

"I was under Isaac-san's care. I had also received a letter of introduction when leaving Shirin. It's a little late, but this is the letter."

It's different from my plan, but I hand over the letter I got from Isaac-san to Cedric-san.

"That's right, that! I've heard from Isaac that he gave you a letter of introduction, so when you arrived at this town, I thought you would immediately visit me, you know?"

"Huh? He certainly asked me to visit you, but..... I didn't have any plans on receiving a favor, you know?"

Just receiving aid would make me feel awkward and I had no plans on making things difficult for him.

"Eh?"

"N?"

Are we misunderstanding something.....?

"..... Umm, let's rely on him if something occurs..... is what you were thinking?"

"..... Well, you could say that."

I feel like I'm counting on the noble's authority, but that's really it when speaking frankly..... helping when in trouble. When there's really, really no other way. I thought to ask for help only then.

"..... Isaac that fellow"

It seems that Isaac-san has told Cedric-san something different.

Isaac-san..... what have you told him.....

"May I ask what Isaac-san has written in the letter?"

"Yes. About the happenings in Shirin, Takumi-san's arrival to Bailey, and he asked me to lend you a hand. Those were the contents."

Indeed, those contents make it seem as if it has already been decided that I would come to visit the feudal lord.

..... Huh? Perhaps..... did I mistake the meaning behind the letter of introduction?

Regardless of what I plan on doing, I should have visited here first, or something.....?

Uwa~ have I done it.....

"There was a report from the gatekeeper that Takumi-san has arrived, but that was the reason you weren't coming, I see."

"..... Eh?"

Wait a minute!

While I was worried about the interpretation of the letter of introduction, Cedric-san said something that can't be disregarded.

"Cedric-san, what do you mean by the gatekeeper's report....."

"I had notified the gatekeepers to let me know when Takumi-san arrives in the town immediately."

Wow. Cedric-san, you have given such orders.....

"That was futile as well, though."

"..... I'm sorry."

"No, no. I was selfishly waiting so don't mind it. But that being the case, I would have been nice if you visited. Oh yeah, Takumi-san made a new bread in Shirin and spread it, right? Actually, it was also written in Isaac's letter, and because a detailed recipe wasn't necessary, it has already spread through our town."

"Ah, yes. I saw it selling in a shop."

It was only jam buns, and bread with dried fruit and nuts mixed in, but as fruits and nuts are abundant here, the variety definitely increased.

"Takumi-san. If possible, won't you please tell me the recipes of the things called Cream bread and Anpan? Of course, I will reward you."

"I would like to ask about this. A reward is not necessary. It's just, about the shops, but....."

"I heard from Isaac about this as well. If there's no fuss about the store, I will introduce it to a wholesale store that sells bread to our house, the other stores will be properly supported by the Risner house."

Because Allen and Elena love Cream bread, I want to make it efficient to replenish. That's why I intended to have it made in a shop somewhere.

Regarding the custard cream, I think I'm willing to publish the recipe, but that would make it difficult to Road-san, wouldn't it~ I should take this proposal from Cedric-san and teach him how to manage the recipe safely, right?

As for the red bean paste, you just need to boil sweet red legume, so I thought it would appear in other shops even without the recipe, but..... that doesn't seem to be the case.

"I'm fine with a store that Cedric-san recommends."

"Ayy~ I'm looking forward to it. Isaac boasted in the letter how delicious it is, so I was extremely interested, you know?"

Eeh!? It's just a normal Cream bread and Anpan, you know? Isaac-san, why are you raising the hurdle that much!?

While Cedric-san and I are having such discussion——

“Umm~.....”

““Ah.””

The sub-master who was left behind flusteredly raised his voice.

Un, Cedric-san and I completely forgot the sub master's existence.

## **Side Story 1**

Fortunate Adventurers

Boy Adventurer - Ed PoV

The story of the young adventurers Takumi came across in the Dungeon of Earth.

My name is Ed. I finally came of an age a year ago and left with my childhood friends Brad and Jane towards the town of Shirin to become adventurers.

At first, the three of us were receiving requests for the gathering of medicinal plants and subjugation of F-ranked monsters.

It's life on an edge with no luxuries, though. Even though it's on edge, I also couldn't afford luxury back in the village, so there's not much change. Because I do what I wanted, I'm having much more fun than working in the fields.

After leading such live for a while, we met guys of the same age, Jin, and Sarah, who just became adventurers.

We formed a temporary party with them, became close friends while doing request together and decided to form an official party.

The party's name is “Eternal Bonds”. A party of three men and two women.

The five of us steadily handled low-rank requests and got recently promoted to E-rank.

At that time, Brad proposed to challenge a dungeon soon since we became E-ranks.

Conveniently, there's a low-grade dungeon near Shirin.

Furthermore, because we could make more income than by receiving low-rank requests, so there was no objection.

I was also looking forward to diving into the dungeons when I become E-rank, so..... Brad's proposal was very timely.

Therefore, we decided to go to the dungeon the next day.

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After going to the dungeon for the first time, we challenged it many more times, and we went in today as well.

We now can smoothly progress through the 1st to the 7th floor.

There are not many dangers in the 1st-7th floor of this dungeon, it's said that the difficulty increases from the 8th floor. That's why we usually stopped on the 7th floor.

But today is different.

Because we have arrived on the 7th floor so smoothly, "Why don't we try the 8th floor?" we have been caught up in the moment and decided to enter the 8th floor.

"Look! There's a hidden room here!"

"Seriously? Is there a treasure chest?"

"Amazing, wonderful!"

While walking on the 8th floor, Jin discovered a hidden room.

There's a high possibility of a treasure chest in the hidden rooms. According to information, there might be potions inside. Finding a low-grade potion would be enough of a treasure for us. When such a possibility arises, we get excited.

"Opening~"

With Brad in the lead, we excitedly opened the door of the hidden room we have discovered. However——

Is there not dozens of Wolves, Horn Rabbits, and Slicer Bats!

It's a trap!

Crap, crap, crap! This is impossible-!!!

"Hii~!"

"The hell is this!"

"R, run away-!"

We ran away at full speed. There's no way we can win against something like that!

We ran at speed on the path we came from.

"W, where to go next....."

"Right! It's right!"

We must not make a mistake and take a wrong turn! It will be our end if we come to a dead end!

Just before turning right, I took a glance behind and saw a lot of monsters chasing after us.

Shit~ Are they not going to give up.....

We should have turned back at the 7th floor as usual..... I regret now.

“Ku.....”

It became hard to breathe..... it will be bad at this rate.....

Just a little more. We will be saved if we descend one floor!

Monsters do not chase to another floor. I scold my legs to keep on running while thinking such.

He! People!? There's are people!?

“Whoa——!! Please, run a~way!!”

I noticed people while desperately running and shouted in panic.

This is bad, he will get dragged into it at this rate. Even though I shouted while out of breath, the man who was there stopped for some reason.

W, why!? Why are you not running away even though I told you to!

“Wa, hey! What are you doing!?”

I want to run away quickly, but if we leave those people and escape, we will become criminals. My brain is in a state of panic, I instantly felt a chill.

“Wind Cutter.”

At the exact moment I intended to drag them to escape, the man used magic.

The moment he fired the magic towards the monsters, a cloud of dust arose.

It was magic with incredible force. People who go to low-grade dungeons like this are not that powerful.

Even after such amazing magic, some monsters leaped out of the cloud of dust. But, before I noticed, two children standing next to the man started running.

The children kicked the monsters with smooth movements and easily cleaned up the monsters.

“Eeeeeeeeh——!!”

What are those children!? They are so strong I unconsciously shouted.

When all monsters were defeated, the man——Niisan, called out to us.

“We are terribly sorry!”

We panic and lower our heads in apology.

Monster scapegoating act. Although not intentional, we have committed a crime. If this person does an official report, we will be punished. My body is naturally trembling.

But, this person doesn't seem to want to accuse us, his voice didn't contain anger.

I'm relieved. And my trembling body grows weak.

I'm seriously glad this person is a good person~

If this person was a bad adventurer, he might have resorted to violence and even extort money from us. That would be the worst case scenario.

""Many~!""

"Thank you. Are you not tired?"

""Is alright~""

The children who went to pick up the dropped items return while dragging a big bag.

Adventurers who take children along are rare. This Niisan seems to be 1-2 years older than us, so they are his little brother and little sister? These children are certainly strong, but you see~ you don't normally bring children to the dungeon, right~

""Ah! There~""

"N?"

""Whoaaa! A Poison Spider!!"

A poisonous spider monster. That fellow is dangerous. That fellow is stealthy, he would creep up to you before you notice and paralyze your body with its venom.

This guy is in the top 3 of the most dangerous monsters in this dungeon. I was told that it's absolutely necessary to purchase antidote for its venom.

Nevertheless, how lucky to notice it before it could creep on us.

"Air Shot."

Eeeeh~!!

Niisan casually used magic and instantly killed the spider.

Certainly, Poison Spider is not a monster that strong. However, the Poison Spider's wariness is high, it would be difficult to injure it without range.

Even if we notice it..... we have swords, spears, and knives, we don't have anyone to support us from range.

Even if there was someone who could use magic, we don't have anyone with shield, and there's not anyone who could scout. Speaking frankly, our party has poor balance.

This Niisan must have noticed after looking at our equipment. That's why Niisan proposed knife throwing. Even if we are adventures with no surplus of money, we can practice with stones, he said.

Certainly, we could easily practice like that, and it won't hurt our pockets. It's so innovative. I don't understand why I didn't notice that before.

“Ah, came~”

“Again~”

Ge! There's another Poison Spider.

The children found a Poison Spider hanging from the ceiling again. Rather, how do they know?

For some reason, they pick up a fist-sized stone from the ground..... and—

—Bang!

“Eeeh!?”

We all shout in shock.

When the children throw the stones, a loud noise resounds from the hit Poison Spider. And then, the Poison Spider falls from the ceiling.

Moreover, the Poison Spider is twitching on the ground. It's on the verge of death.

T, the children! The children this little brought down a Poison Spider!

I..... no, no one among us can defeat a Poison Spider like that. And yet, children far younger than me accomplished it so easily.....

It's a lie, right!?

I want this to be a dream. It wasn't mentioned, by all members must also be feeling like this.

We parted with the brother who advanced to the next floor, and we carefully advance towards the entrance.

It's inevitable that Niisan and the children were the topics of our discussion on the way back.

“That was incredible, wasn't it?”

“Yeah. Incredible...”

That Niisan's magic was outrageous. He nearly brought down dozens of monsters with just single magic.

“Can I remember magic if I train?”

Jin mutters.

Magic, huh..... magic is related to talent, but it's quite expensive to get guidance. But, it will be necessary to live as an adventurer from now on, right? Let's properly research when we return to the town.

“I, I wonder if should start practicing bow.....”

Sarah also muttered.

That's right. It would be better if there was someone among us who could use the bow. Sarah's main weapon is a knife, so I think bow and knife would suit her battle style.

"I will do a throwing practice! As that Niisan said, I will first increase my accuracy by throwing stones!"

It appears that Brad also found his new goal.

"Yeah, that is good. I will practice throwing together with you!"

We have safely grasped our situation and decided to face it. Even though it might be dangerous.

I noticed that we have been looking only ahead all this time.

That's right. It has no meaning if we die. We should take the time to forge ourselves to get stronger.

"We can meet that Niichan in Shirin, right? I would like to express gratitude some other time."

"Yeah, right."

"Ah! But we didn't ask for his name!"

"Ah!"

Even though I wanted to thank him later, we forgot to ask his name.

"But, adventurers with such little children, stand out, won't we find out if we ask around?"

It's as Jane says. An adventurer who brings children with him is unusual. We might find out if we ask around in the guild.

"Which reminds me, he said the children's names, didn't he? Allen? And..... Elena? Was it?"

"He did, he did."

We can meet again, right? When we meet, we must thank him properly!

When we returned to the town, we immediately found out Niisan's name. It's Takumi-san.

He was immediately identified when we asked about "Adventurer who's taking care of two children".

It's said that although they came to this town just recently, and Takumi-san and the children are quite famous.

We heard a "Rumor" from senpai adventurer about the children knocking down an arrogant adventurer.

Well, those who didn't witness that in the dungeon wouldn't believe, but you see..... we thought that the rumor was the truth.

## **Side Story 2**

A Certain Rainy Day

A story that takes place a while after arriving in the town of Shirin.

I got used to life in the town after some days.

When I got up in the morning and looked out from the inn's room, it was raining a lot outside.

"Ah~ It's raining today....."

""..... Uu~""

When I mutter such after seeing the weather, Allen and Elena were clearly feeling down.

As for why——Yesterday evening, before going to sleep, I have promised them "Let's outside the town to play tomorrow?".

Allen and Elena were looking forward to that very much.

""Uu~""

It's not like I'm at fault, but seeing them so dejected, it makes me feel guilty indeed.

N~.....

"..... It's just a light rain, will it be all right if we put overcoats?"

If worn properly, I wouldn't have to worry about them getting soaked.

"What to do? Do you want to go?"

""Go~!""

Completely reversing their cloudy expressions, Allen and Elena cling to my legs with smiles.

"Alright! Then, let's eat breakfast first!"

""Yea!""

The two still don't show many expressions towards strangers, but they show their innocence when it's only us.

I leave the room after eating breakfast with loosened cheeks.

After finished eating breakfast in the dining room, we left the town completely covered in overcoats——we arrive at the meadow in the south of the town.

“”Ukiya~””

The moment we left the town, Allen and Elena started jumping into puddles with all their might.

“Don’t fall~”

“”Ye~s.””

When thinking they would start running around, Allen and Elena suddenly crouched down.

N? Did they find something?

I crouch behind the two and look from above.

There, I saw a frog. Not a monster, but a palm-sized, ordinary frog.

“This is a frog.”

“”Frog~””

It appears that Allen and Elena like the movements of the frog which jumps up and down.

“Pyonpyon.”

“Ribbit, ribbit~”

The two chase after the jumping frog while imitating it.

Un, un, seeing them in such high spirits, it was worth it to come playing even if it’s raining.

After chasing after the frog, the two move here and there at their fancy and survey the surroundings with curiosity.

“”Onii~chan! Let’s go there~””

“Yes, yes.”

After exploring the forest, they seem to want to return to the meadow near the town.

Ah, the rain has stopped too.

“Look, Allen, Elena. A rainbow has appeared.”

When the sun appeared from the gap of the clouds, a big rainbow appeared in the sky.

I immediately tell Allen and Elena to look in the sky.

“Rainbow~ amazing~”

“Rainbow~ pretty~”

Allen and Elena who see a rainbow for the first time are frolicking while pointing at the rainbow.

““Onii~chan, that a rainbow too~?””

“N?”

A rainbow..... down below?

Allen and Elena who should be looking at the sky point at the ground this time.

“..... Eh?”

When I look where they point, seven-colored flowers——“Rainbow flower” were blooming in the ground.

Rainbow flower is a flower that blooms after the rain. It blooms and withers with the rainbow. Moreover, the place to bloom is random. It's a flower whose blooming place can't be predicted.

Because of its difficult discovery conditions, it's naturally a rare material.

“This is a Rainbow flower. A medicinal plant.”

The sunlight reaches them, and the petals start glittering.

Being able to see this should be outrageous luck.

““Medicinal!!””

“Allen, will pluck~”

“Ellena will pluck too~”

“Eh?”

Hearing the word “medicinal,” Allen and Elena started plucking the Rainbow flowers.

It's a precious medicinal plant, so it's better to pick them, but we have come to play today.....

Well, the two look to be having fun picking herbs, so if the two are okay with it..... right? Un, let's make it right.

Well then, I will get some too.

““Huh~??””

After picking a sufficient amount of Rainbow flowers, the rest of the Rainflowers withered the moment the rainbow disappeared, and the meadow returned to normal.

““Disappeared~?””

“There is really nothing left, huh.....”

The plucked flowers remain as they were, but the rest withered.

If I had not plucked any flowers, it would feel like an illusion.

“Mysterious, isn’t it~?”

“Isn’t it~?”

“Did you have fun today?”

“Fun~”

It turned into a material collection in the end, but Allen and Elena apparently had plenty of fun.

“Then, shall we return?”

“Yea.”

◇ ◇ ◇

“Kyaa ＼＼＼!!”

I thought it would be wasteful to leave the valuable Rainbow flowers in the Infinite Storage, so I brought some to the guild.

There, when I took the Rainbow flowers out, Luna-san let out a shout.

Moreover, she shouted so much she “Cough, cough” choked.

“Isn’t this Rainbow flower!? Moreover, this many! Amazing, incredible!!”

“Ah~..... can I ask you to sell this for me?”

“Gladly~!!”

I thought she might be glad, but she’s delighted more than I expected.

Allen and Elena were startled by Luna-san’s strong reaction and stuck to my legs somewhat frightened.....

## Chapter 60

Check and Report

“Yeah. Gilliam-dono, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting.”

“No. I didn’t know that Count-sama and Takumi-san were acquaintances.”

“It’s our first time meeting, but Takumi-san is an important guest of our family. Ah, which reminds me, it appears there was some kind of a problem yesterday at the guild, wasn’t there? Is the reason that the guild master didn’t come today because he was busy dealing with that?”

“”.....””

The sub master's—Gilliam-san's complexion instantly turned pale.

Nevertheless, Cedric-san. Why do you know about that matter? It happened just yesterday, you know?

I thought I was being tailed for a moment there. But, if that were the case, both the children and I would notice.

That means, his intelligence gathering is awfully excellent.

“I won't say anything because Takumi-san compromised, but I hope that such a thing won't happen in the future.”

“Y, yes. Of course! Severely, I will hold it in my heart!”

“If you, the sub-master says so, I feel relieved.”

Cedric-san, thank you very much.

It appears he gave the guild warning for our sake.

At any rate..... Cedric is talking with the usual smile, but it brought up the fire from the atmosphere.

Hence Gilliam-san nodded with great vigor.

“”Ah.””

“Allen, Elena. Pointing fingers at people is rude.”

“”Ye~s.””

At that time, Allen and Elena who were quiet all the time suddenly let out voices and pointed at Cedric-san. I stopped their gesture in a hurry.

“So, what happened?”

“”Alike~””

N? Alike?

“Said it's alright~ to kick.”

“Knight Onii~chan.”

“”.....””

Ah~ that time..... In the Gaya Forest with the Knights Order, Isaac-san said to Allen and Elena that it's alright to kick Wald-sama.....

I also find the smile of Isaac-san at that time exactly the same as Cedric-san's, but..... however, do I hear a different meaning when the to say it.....

“Umm..... by alike you mean Isaac-san, right? Has my little brother grew to like being kicked around by children in the time I have not seen him, I wonder.....”

"You are wrong, it's different! The target on the receiving end of the kick was different!"

See~ Cedric-san had a weird misunderstanding~

I must resolve the misunderstanding to protect Isaac-san's honor! Ah~ while that may be true, I can't possibly say that the target of the kicking as Wald-sama.....

It seems difficult to explain while not saying the concrete thing.

I somehow managed to solve the misunderstanding, and we talked about the "Ripples" dungeon.

The contents were about the details I found in the dungeon, and the investigation of the people Cedric-san and the guild dispatched.

"Haah~ To discover a dungeon in my fief~ I'm grateful to you, Takumi-san."

"That so, isn't it? People are going to gather in our town from now on."

Speaking frankly, a dungeon is a vein of gold.

When the information of a new dungeon gets out, adventurers will start gathering around. Those adventurers will bring back the dropped items from the dungeon and sell them at the Adventurer's Guild.

Merchants will gather for those dropped items and trade with the Adventurer's Guild.

When people gather, the inns and restaurants will flourish.

Since the economy moves in various places and taxes are paid, the financial affairs of the fief prosper as a result.

It was really a coincidence that I have caused a dungeon fuss in the Risner territory, but I think it would be good if it returned the favor that I owe to the Risner house at least a little.

Well, I think that problems will arise with the sudden increase in people, but I can only wish them to do their best.

Oh yeah, there is a total of four dungeons kept under control in Guardia. It appears that the "Ripples" we have discovered is going to be the fifth one.

Yesterday, before returning from the guild, I asked the receptionist about the locations of the dungeons. She then turned towards the adventurers and got me a list with a rough map.

The list had the dungeons written in order with information such as [Fourth Dungeon "Earth" /Low rank/Guardia, Shirin/To the east, half day by foot].

According to this list, half of the dungeons appear to be undiscovered.

I get why the dungeon in the Gaya Forest or the dungeon in the deep sea are not discovered, but I was surprised that even dungeons near the towns are undiscovered.

Because of that~ I have to be more careful~ Is what I was thinking while storing the map into the Infinite Storage, but then——

——Piron♪

At that time, I heard an electric sound in my head for some reason.

I thought what could it be, so I immediately opened the designating window.

Then, there was an indication “NEW” by the map tab.

The information written on the paper I stored in the Infinite Storage was now indicated on the map.

That's right, the map has updated on its own. Seriously~ I was completely dumbfounded then~

“That reminds me, how far in the dungeon did you go?”

“We just looked a bit around the first floor. We did not have much time as I wouldn't make it in time for today. We indeed had troubles right at the entrance, though.”

As expected, reaching the entrance of the dungeon——it was not easy swimming for about 50 meters without breathing.

“Umm..... I feel bad for asking, but there were no casualties, right?”

Because there is no way to get out of the waterway halfway, if you can't hold your breath, the risk of drowning isn't low.

I wouldn't like to hear the talk of people drowning in the dungeon I have discovered.

“Everything's all right. The investigator I chose had large stamina and good swimming skills.”

I feel relieved hearing Cedric-san's words.

But, it's obvious that when the dungeon is officially announced, reckless people will appear one after another. We have to take measures against that immediately.....

“Well, I understand Takumi-san's fears. I had the investigator hold onto a magic tool just in case, and right now, we are in a hurry to mass produce that very magic tool.”

“You mean a magic tool that allows breathing underwater?”

“Yes. It's not that highly effective, but it uses wind magic stone which creates a fixed amount of air in the magic tool, so I gave the orders to have that mass produced.”

Creates air..... hee~ so there was such magic tool~ if something like that exists, I can feel relieved?

“Also, regarding the reward. I’m sure you are aware, but the discoverer of a dungeon gets rewarded by the country.

Yeah, the matter of the reward still remains..... I’ve heard from the guild that the discoverer would receive a reward, but don’t conceal the important thing!

“Is the name of the discoverer officially announced?”

“It’s reported to the country, but only limited information is revealed in the public announcement. It was done like that in the past. Takumi-san, you don’t like the official announcement? Discoverer of a new dungeon will receive high praises, you know?”

“I’d like to decline the praises.”

“I understand. I will propose that to His Majesty.”

“I will leave it to you.”

Discovering a new dungeon looks too conspicuous, so I would like to avoid it. Fortunately, publishing my name seems to be avoidable.

In truth, I would like to avoid the reward as well, but..... Cedric-san rejected with a wonderful smile. ..... Regrets.

Now then, is the talk done with this? It had become noon before I noticed.

The sub-master who finished reporting quickly left the room.

“Cedric-sama, everyone is waiting in the dining room.”

The butler of the Risner house who guided us to Cedric-san, Joshua-san just came to call for Cedric-san, so we will also take our leave—

“Then, we will.....—”

“Now then, Takumi-san. The lunch preparations are done, so let’s move to the dining room.”

“Eh?”

Cedric-san smiled with a smile that I couldn’t go against.

Ku..... this smile, it’s definitely a foul play!

## **Chapter 61**

Risner Family

When we move to the dining room, Cedric-san’s family was already waiting there.

“This is my wife Olivie.”

“I’m Olivie. Welcome and thank you for coming.”

"I'm sorry for intruding. My name is Takumi."

"These are my sons Theodore and Latis. They are nine and seven years old. We also have a daughter, but I have not called her here because she's still young."

Cedric-san introduces me to his wife and two sons.

His wife is a gentle looking woman with chestnut colored hair and blue eyes. It looks like a picture when she stands next to Cedric-san, and they seem like a couple that gets along very well.

The eldest son Theodore-kun has silver hair, and green eyes after his father and the younger brother Latis-kun has chestnut hair and grayish blue eyes after the mother? They both inherit their parent's traits in such a way.

They also seem to have a daughter that will become two years old as well as these two sons.

"Hello, I'm Theodore."

"I'm Latis. Hello."

"Hello. I'm Takumi. These children are Allen and Elena. Hey, are you two not going to say hello?"

"..... Allen."

"..... Elena."

I kneeled down matching Theodore-kun's and Latis-kun's eyes, took out Allen and Elena who were hiding behind my back and incited them for the greetings.

Thereupon, Allen and Elena told just their names in faint voices and immediately sneaked behind my back.

This is..... not frightened or anything, right? ..... Are they being shy?

Even though Allen and Elena saw children close to their age before, they have never had such face-to-face conversation before, so they are apparently nervous.

But, they seem to have an interest as they are peeking at Theodore-kun and Latis-kun from behind my back.

"Theodore-kun, Latis-kun, I'm sorry. They are shy of people they meet for the first time you see..... if you'd like, please get along with them, okay?."

""Yes.""

"My, my, that's the way children are."

I'm glad that every one of the Risner family doesn't seem to mind. However, a little more normal greetings are necessary.

"Well then, come this way please."

“Thank you very much.”

When our introductions end, this is a nobility! We have been guided to a long table that was shouting such feeling.

The individual seats have been prepared beforehand, but there were two chairs stuffed on both sides of the seat that I was shown to.

They were, of course, Allen’s and Elena’s seats.

That’s right, isn’t it~ having a meal with people they see for the first time in a place like this, it would be naturally impossible for them to separate from me.

Therefore, I’m very thankful for this arrangement.

Did Cedric-san give such instructions? As expected, he doesn’t overlook the details~

The meal was harbor-ish, a soup full of marine products and bread. The main dish was sauteed of some kind of a white fish. It had a salty taste as expected, but it was easy to eat.

””Onii~chan.””

“N? What is it?”

””Want to eat jelly~””

After finishing the main course, Allen and Elena requested for a dessert.

“Jelly, is it? What is that?”

The one who showed a reaction to those words first was Cedric-san.

“Ah~..... it’s sweets.”

“Perhaps, Takumi-san’s handmade?”

“Ah, yes. That’s right.”

“If it’s alright with you, won’t you let us eat some as well?”

“.....”

Cedric-san seems to have an interest in the jelly.

“I will pay the price?”

“No, I don’t need money! It’s just that..... jelly is made from a slightly special ingredient, you see..... I’m worried..... that it’s not something nobles would like.....”

“Oh my, was it like that? I would definitely like to try to eat it without hearing the ingredients.”

Cedric-san is unexpectedly a person brimming with curiosity.....

Won't he get angry after I let him eat the slime jelly? I will think about it when the time comes?

"I hope it will suit your tastes, but....."

I melt Giant Bee honey in the milk, took out the jelly that contained compote from Rigo from the Infinite Storage and serve it to the Risner family.

Of course, I handed it to Allen and Elena too.

"This is good, isn't it! It's jiggly and easy to eat."

"That's right. It's feeling nice and cold, and it's very delicious."

""It's delicious!""

The Risner family tries it right away. The taste seems to have a favorable opinion.

""Onii~chan, delish~""

Allen and Elena stuff their cheeks in satisfaction.

"However, I have no idea what was used to make it....."

"Rigo!"

"And milk!"

"My, my, Rigo is a common fruit and milk is an ingredient that is often used. I wouldn't call them special ingredients?"

""Eh~""

The Risner family began to inspect the ingredients I used.

"N~..... I don't know. May I inquire about the ingredients?"

""Slime!""

""""Eh?""""

Allen and Elena cheerfully answered Cedric-san's question. The Risner family let out surprised voices.

"Ah~..... I have used slime jelly."

"Slime jelly..... is it? That thing from slimes that will do neither harm nor good?"

"That's it."

"Something like that can be used to make something like this....."

Are? They were surprised at first, but they have a normal reaction..... did they accept it?

Are there unexpectedly no unpleasant feelings towards slime jelly?

“By the way, did Isaac eat this before?”

“No. Today is the first time I offered it to someone else besides my children.”

“Is that so? Fufufu~ I can boast to Isaac with this!”

Eeh!?

Does he perhaps wants revenge because Isaac-san was boasting about the Cream bread!?

“Then, Takumi-san. Would it be possible to purchase this recipe as well?”

“I, I don’t mind, but.....”

“It’s good to eat after a meal, but it would be a suitable thing to eat on hot days or when the physical condition is not good. This will sell if put out in the store! Right, Joshua!”

“..... Cedric-sama, even if you ask me that.”

Cedric-san asked Joshua who was refraining behind him.

However, Joshua-san has not eaten jelly. It would be difficult to ask for his opinion~

“How about Joshua-san tries it as well?”

I took out the jelly and recommended to Joshua-san.

Joshua-san took a glance at Cedric-san. Ah, he’s asking for Cedric-san’s permission.

“Joshua, you try it too.”

“Yes. Takumi-sama, is it all right?”

“Of course.”

Joshua-san who obtained Cedric-san’s permission tried the jelly right away.

“This is.....”

“How is it, Joshua? It’s delicious, right?”

“Yes. As Cedric-sama said, it seems like a suitable food for times when the appetite isn’t good.”

“Right? We should start securing slime jelly immediately!”

“However, Cedric-sama..... Because slime jelly is a material that everybody ignores, it would take time to gather suitable amount.....”

Because slime jelly is the lowest value material, high ranked adventurers don’t bring back much.

Even if a request was sent to the Adventurer’s Guild, it will be overlooked.

“Nothing will be brought back unless we increase the price, huh.....”

“I expect so.”

“N~..... if that’s the case, would you like to try putting up a capture request and try cultivating them?”

Eh! Are you perhaps trying to start a slime ranch? It has somehow become an amazingly serious matter!

Cedric-san and Joshua-san moved forward in an incredible direction, I could only listen.

## **Idle Talk 7**

Letter From Elder Brother

I’m Grunwald Ruven.

I’m a knight belonging to the Guardia country, I’m currently serving as the commanding officer of the Shirin’s branch office.

When I put away the office paperwork I’m bad with, Isaac, my deputy secretary, would usually be clearing the papers, but I noticed that he’s staring at a document while frowning.

Isaac with such expression is exceedingly rare. Just what is he reading?

That reminds me, my subordinates brought a letter from the guild, didn’t they? Is he reading that letter?

If I’m not mistaken, it should have been from his home in the Risner territory, but..... he’s reading it quite seriously.

Did something happen at home?

“Oi, Isaac. Did something happen?”

“Ah~..... that’s right..... well, a lot.....”

..... He’s quite not making himself clear.

Isaac who speaks mercilessly even to me who’s his superior officer, and argues with me..... is this a prologue to disaster?!

No way, is this fellow possibly Isaac’s impostor!?

“Commander. Could you stop having impolite thoughts?”

“N, no. There’s no such thing.”

Ou. It’s the real Isaac. Don’t scare me.

“Haah..... apparently, Takumi-san and the kids arrived at Bailey.”

“Hah?”

Speaking of Takumi, he's a man with two little children who came to Shirin a while ago. He was in the town for about two months, but Takumi did many things during that period.

He defeated an A-rank monster in the Gaya Forest, saved many lives including me, and spread a new bread in the town.

I also think it was thanks to Takumi that we had the opportunity to arrest the wrongdoing baron.

When that very Takumi said that he plans to leave the town, everyone was surprised.

Takumi is an adventurer. It's given for adventurers to go from town to town, but I somehow didn't consider him leaving the town.

When I unconsciously asked about his destination, he said he's going to the Bailey in the south of Guardia.

I felt relieved when I heard that.

Because his destination was within the country, not foreign territory.

I'd like to keep the strong fighting force in the country as much as possible.

There's currently a low possibility of war, but monster overflowing happens all the time.

The country, especially the thickheaded guys working in the castle despise the likes of adventurers, but the knights fighting on the front lines think of them as reliable existences.

Generally, I don't rely on adventurers that much.

However, Takumi is different.

I want to keep him in the country by any means. No matter what, he's someone who can defeat A-rank monster all by himself, after all.

Besides, I don't get tired watching them, both Takumi and the children he brings along with him, I'm curious about what they are going to do next~

Bailey, the town Takumi went to is a Risner territory. A land governed by Isaac's elder brother.

He would be able to protect it if something happened, so I'm somehow reassured, but..... didn't he arrive at Bailey way too fast!?

It has been a month since they left this town..... was it? It wasn't, right!?

It's from the end of the country to another from here to Bailey. Even the shortest route by carriage takes at least a month at best!

Well~ it's possible to arrive faster than in one month by riding a fast horse, but he didn't travel like that.

Nevertheless, it's weird no matter how I think about it that Takumi and the children already arrived in Bailey!

Furthermore, the children Takumi is bringing with him are just little tinies. I acknowledge that they have more stamina than other children, but their builds are smaller than those of normal children.

If bringing such kids along, it should take that much longer to arrive.

Fatigue will accumulate even when riding in a horse-drawn carriage. Normally, it would be necessary to stop at towns or villages on the way to rest. And yet——

“He’s way too early, isn’t he?”

“That’s right. Well, let’s leave the travel schedule with ‘It’s Takumi-san.’ That person’s standards are out of the norm, we won’t understand even if we ponder about it.”

“..... You’re right.”

That’s certainly true. He seems to be able to do astonishing things with ease.

It might be easy for him to move to another town in a couple of days.

“Then, the letter you are holding means he arrived at your elder brother’s place?”

“No, it seems he didn’t come.”

“Haah? He didn’t come?”

“Yes. It appears that he had the gatekeepers to notify him of Takumi-san’s arrival. There apparently was a report that he arrived, but he didn’t visit the mansion.”

Takumi probably doesn’t like to use authority unconditionally.

He wouldn’t use that letter unless something that he couldn’t deal with by himself happened. It’s most likely like that.

Speaking of Takumi, that’s so Takumi-like.

“However, he apparently arrived by a different route.”

“Heeh? A different route?”

“Yes. He discovered a new dungeon and had a conflict with the Adventurer’s Guild’s staff members.”

Haa!? What did Isaac just say?

A new dungeon? Is he saying that a new dungeon has been discovered in Bailey!!

What a thing! Well, isn’t that a serious affair.

“Isaac! Is that the truth!?”

"Yes. There's no doubt. It appears to be water attributed, intermediate level dungeon."

The materials brought from dungeons bring profit. I don't understand it that much, but there seem to be more than that to it..... first of all, the Risner territory has obtained an enormous fortune.

So, the guild staff members and Takumi visited the Risner mansion together?

"Wait a moment! Does that mean that Takumi is the discoverer!?"

"That's correct."

"....."

Oi, oi, oi, oi. What the hell is that fellow Takumi doing.....

Discovering a dungeon is not something that can be accomplished so easily.

It can't be helped that I was surprised by the ridiculous information Isaac has revealed. But, Isaac was making a complicated expression.

"Oi, is there something else?"

"..... The discovery of a new dungeon will be reported to the country, wouldn't it?"

"Well, it will. They will be first let know by a letter, then they will have to report directly. Your elder brother will become busy~"

"That he will, won't he? Making a round trip to the capital will take a lot of time on its own. Aside from that, the discoverer of the dungeon will be reported as well, right?"

"..... He will."

Ah~..... there's was such thing.

"His Majesty will call Takumi-san to the capital, won't he?"

"I don't think he will be forced to come, but. He will be called."

His Majesty will certainly like to meet the discoverer of the dungeon.

"It seems it would be best to get a few lines from Leader and inform the capital's Knights Order."

A follow-up for Takumi, huh. That will be certainly necessary.

Not about Takumi doing something stupid, but the stupid trying to do something to Takumi.

"They have to nudge the stupid, untactful fellows, so they don't anger him....."

Should I inform my parent's home as well..... it won't be enough to keep everyone in check even if I inform them.

"I would be thankful if the good-for-nothing could be smashed, though. Well, Takumi-san has the power to simply destroy the town, but he wouldn't do that. If I'm pushed to say, he would simply leave the country."

"....."

That's plausible.....

There are many fellows like that among adventurers, but Takumi has no particular attachment to the country. He would seriously simply leave the country.

"At any rate, I'm really concerned about the new sweets called jelly."

While I was imagining a plausible future, Isaac changed the topic.

"..... What is that?"

"It appears that Takumi-san let Elder brother eat that. It was very delicious, so he received permission from Takumi-san and started doing a new business."

Takumi..... seriously what were you doing as soon as you arrived?!

Isn't your starting pace faster than when you came here!

## **Chapter 62**

Simplified Version

After the unexpected passionate slime jelly talk——

"Oh yeah, Takumi-san. Please stay at our mansion while you are in Bailey."

"Eh?"

Cedric-san suddenly proposed to us.

"No, to be taken care of that much..... besides, we are already staying in an inn."

"There wouldn't be a problem canceling the inn, right?"

I thought of reservedly declining, but Cedric-san wasn't giving up.

Well~ I don't have a problem canceling the inn, but..... however, because I don't know how long we will be staying in Bailey, I would feel awkward being taken care of for a long time.

However, when Cedric-san said he would like playmates for his children once in a while, I immediately surrendered. I mean, there are not many opportunities for Allen and Elena to come in contact with children of their age. While in Bailey, I'm sincerely thankful for the opportunity of them interacting with Theodore-kun and Latis-kun.

That being the case, I have decided to stay in the Risner House's care during our stay in Bailey.

◇ ◇ ◇

The next morning during our stay in the Risner mansion, I have woken up with the sunrise because of going to sleep earlier than usual.

Allen and Elena are already up.

“Good morning.”

“Morning~”

“Did you sleep well?”

“Yeah.”

This being the mansion of nobles, the mattress in the guest room was soft and comfortable to sleep on, but our sleeping hours didn't increase.

Because it's still too early to be waking up, I thought of passing the time by rolling around the bed, but as I'm completely awake, I started dressing up.

Then, because at least one of the servants would be awake, we left the room seeking permission to go to the garden.

Sure enough, we immediately found Servant-san, who told me that Cedric-san is already awake, so he guided us to him.

“Good morning.”

“Takumi-san, good morning. Allen-kun and Elena-san, good morning to you too.”

“Morning~”

Cedric-san in a dressing gown, sitting on a sofa and reading a letter.

“The sun has just come out, was the bed not to your liking?”

“No, I have rested properly. Both the children and I don't sleep for too long, so.”

“Is that so?”

“Yeah.”

It seems that Cedric-san is worried that we didn't sleep much because we woke up so early in the morning.

“Say, Allen, Elena. You have slept a lot, didn't you?”

“Yea.”

“Soft~”

“Comfortable~”

Cedric-san didn't seem convinced by my explanation, so I asked Allen and Elena. Thereupon, the two turned towards Cedric-san with smiles on their faces and answered.

“Is that so?”

A gentle smile floated on Cedric-san’s face after hearing that.

I don’t know whether it’s because Cedric-san looks like Isaac-san, but Allen and Elena quickly warmed up to him. There weren’t any problems even with conversations such as this.

N~..... nevertheless, it appears that Allen and Elena liked the soft bed very much. The inn we were staying at wasn’t a cheap inn, but as expected, the quality is entirely different. If it’s like this, I should get a good futon in the near future.

“Cedric-san is early as well, aren’t you?”

“Yes, a reply came from Isaac to the letter I sent him yesterday.”

Eh? A reply to a letter that was sent yesterday?!

I asked because I was curious and was told something unexpected.

“Isn’t that too fast? Doesn’t one-way letter delivery usually take about one month?”

“Ah, Takumi-san comes from a rural village, don’t you?”

“Y, yeah.....”

..... Rural village. Which reminds me, there was such a setting. I have completely forgotten.

“In that case, it’s no wonder you are not aware of the existence of the transfer magic tool.”

“Transfer magic tool, is it? Those in dungeons?”

“The principle is the same. It’s just that these can’t transfer people like those in the dungeons.”

Transfer magic tool, as the name suggests, is a magic tool that allows sending items over a long distance. Unlike the transfer device in the dungeons, it’s a magic tool large enough to be held in both hands which apparently can’t transfer people.

On top of being able to transfer only to a place with the same magic tool, it can only send letters and small items like accessories.

But, in this world where conversations are the mainstream exchange, this magic tool is convenient.

Also, it appears that the transfer magic tool can’t be produced by people’s hands and there’s no other way than to acquire it in dungeons. Even though researchers have been studying the magic tool for many years, it appears that it’s impossible to reproduce.

It seems that a magic tool that transfers people like the ones in the dungeons is like a dream within a dream.

"Does that mean you can deliver items anywhere as long as that place has the same magic tool?"

Isn't that dangerous in a sense?

It would be possible to deliver explosives to the destination and destroy it.

"No. These magic tools have something akin to an individual recognition code. It's possible to send only to magical tools that have registered that code."

It seems that transfer magic tools (simplified) have individual codes which are registered with the first transfer.

It appears that one-way transfer is possible depending on the code is registered.

Naturally, the registrations in the castle and other important places are limited, and the exchanges between countries are apparently dealt with firmly in establishments in separate places.

Besides, it appears that the magic tools owned by the country are nearly all currently located in Adventurer's Guilds.

Because they can be obtained only in dungeons, most of them are acquired by adventurers, so it's only inevitable that the Adventurer's Guilds will purchase them.

Thus, the transfer of magic tools in the Adventurer's Guilds are used to send and deliver letters.

The fee is higher than delivery by carriage or fast horse, but the fee is apparently set to a price that even common folk would be able to use it.

The biggest advantage is the fast delivery.

"So Adventurer's Guild also had such use, I see. I didn't know. Then, since it's possible to deliver between the branches of Adventurer's Guilds, is it possible to send letters even to the foreign countries?"

"Yeah, that's right. Adventurer's Guilds all over the world are branches of one establishment, so they have the codes registered. This letter also went through the Adventurer's Guild and was delivered just a little while ago. It was delivered as an urgent case before the sunrise."

"Urgent? Did anything happen?"

"No. Isaac just deliberately send it like that."

"Heeh?"

"It appears he was frustrated by my boasting. Well, in other words, he's harassing me."

"Boasting? Harassment?"

"Yeah, I was boasting in the letter I sent yesterday how good the slime jelly tasted. Of course, I even told him that you would teach me the way of making Cream bread."

"Eh!?"

Does that mean that Cedric-san wrote Isaac-san a letter in which he boasted about the slime jelly and Isaac-san who read that letter sent a reply letter urgently to be delivered before the sunrise in order to harass Cedric-san!?

These siblings, what are they doing~!?

## **Chapter 63**

Morning Market

"It looks like Isaac's hating to lose and immediately becoming irritated is still the same~ Although it was smoother over when he entered the Knights Order..... His recent reactions are quite honest. Iya~ How nostalgic."

Cedric-san is making a very relieved expression.

Was Cedric-san perhaps affectionate as well as teasing his little brother since childhood?

I see, I see. Even though Isaac-san is teasing Wald-sama, his position would be reversed if his opponent was his Oniisan~

I thought their relationship might be stormy for a moment there, but the brothers seem to be getting along well.

"By the way, Takumi-san. If possible, won't you go with me to the harbor's morning market?"

While thinking about the Risner brothers, Cedric-san suddenly proposed such.

"Morning market? Hey, won't it cause a ruckus if Cedric-san goes?"

"I will naturally go incognito."

"....."

Incognito, huh.....

Well, I don't mind. "Big shots = traveling incognito," is often the case anyway.....

"It seems there has been recently unusual food served in a harbor stall."

"Unusual food?"

"Yes. They have started selling just a few days ago, but it's so popular that they have long queues every day and reputable for its great taste. Therefore, I thought to go to check it out."

"Heeh~ that's indeed interesting."

Popular enough to create queues, that's certainly interesting.

They were selling a few days before when we went to the morning market, didn't they? However, I have not seen any long queues~ Were they already sold out when we were there?

"I thought I would go there while inspecting."

"You want us to accompany you?"

"Please, by all means. I thought about bringing my sons along as well. Allen-kun, Elen-san, do you mind morning market's street stall food for breakfast?"

""Um?""

"It's the place where a lot of fish is sold. He's asking whether you're fine with having a meal there."

""Yea! Alright~""

"Is that so? Then, I will make the preparations immediately. I'm sorry, but please wait for a moment."

"No, please take your time."

That being the case, we have arrived at the harbor's morning market's plaza together with Cedric-san, Theodore-kun, and Latis-kun.

Cedric-san wanted to go without guards at first, but it would be hard to deal with if something happened, so three guards including Joshua-san went along.

Surprisingly, Joshua-san is an all-purpose butler who can be a guard as well!

"Father~ It's that place, isn't it!"

"Yeah. It seems so."

"Let's go quickly!"

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun urge Cedric-san and pull him by his hands.

It has a feeling of an exciting outing with their father.

N? Allen and Elena are jii~ staring at the Risner parent and children..... and frequently glance at me? Is this possibly?

Which reminds me, when walking with Allen and Elena, they either hold my clothes, or I'm carrying them in my arms, we hardly walk while holding hands, don't we?

The two stare at the Risner parent and children again. This is without a doubt, right?

“Allen, Elena. Here.”

When I call Allen and Elene and extend my hands, as I thought, they both immediately grasp my hands.

“”Ehehe~””

They were so happy they showed me grinning smiles and imitating Theodore-kun and Latis-kun, they guided me by hands to the end of the stall’s queue.

Nevertheless, the queue is as incredible as Cedric-san said. It appears true that the stall is popular.

“What an incredible people. I wonder what he’s selling?”

“He appears to be shellfish, but I heard he uses a flavoring that was not used until now. If I’m not mistaken..... they are using a flavoring called soy sauce.”

“..... Soy sauce.”

Hahaha~..... no way, right.....

“.....”

I thought it was needless thoughts, but as we advance in the queue, we approach the stall little by little, and I smelled something familiar.

“”Ah!””

“Ah~.....”

Allen and Elena saw the scallops stall owner and raised their voices.

As expected..... it’s the stall owner I thought the butter and soy sauce scallops. What he’s selling is precisely that.

“Is something wrong?”

“No..... well, you see.....”

“N? Ooh! Isn’t that Anchan and the children!”

Now then, how do I explain this.....

While worried about how to explain to Cedric-san, the stall owner noticed us and waved his hand.

“What’s that, Anchan? Are you perhaps waiting in the queue? There’s no need for Anchan to line up. No matter what, this is something Anchan has taught me. Are those Anchan’s companions? Look, come here and eat without reservation!”

“..... Takumi-san?”

“.....”

Ahh..... I feel like Cedric-san's eyes are asking “What does this mean?”

“No..... umm.....”

“Is it true that Takumi-san taught him this?”

“..... Yes. On the day we arrived in this town.....”

Naturally, I explain everything that happened on the day I arrived in this town.

“Haah.....”

Cedric-san who listened to my explanation deeply sighed.

Somehow..... I'm really sorry? It's not like I did something wrong, but it feels like I caused some trouble?

First of all, let's eat some scallops?

“..... It's delicious, isn't it?”

“”Takumi-san, it's delicious!“”

It appears the butter and soy sauce scallops suited the Risner parent and children's tastes.

“Takumi-san, could you tell me what this soy sauce is?”

“Ah, yes. It's sap from a tree called Koikuchi that grows in dungeons.”

“Is that so? Then, is it sold by shops dealing with dungeon items?”

“That's right.”

Apparently, Cedric-san is pleased with the taste of soy sauce and decided to stop by a shop dealing with dungeon items next.

Looking at the people gathered at this stall, it's easy to tell that the people of Aetherdia have accepted the taste of soy sauce, so why would they not use it before? Strange.

“”Onii~chan.“”

“Yes?”

“”One more, please~“”

Allen and Elena love this taste, don't they?

## Chapter 64

Fiji Company

The largest or second largest commercial company in the Guardia country・Fiji Company.

It's a company that deals in food and monster materials, managing many shops and of course, they also deal with the goods found in dungeons.

The main store of the Fiji Company is in the royal capital, but they have many branch stores, and one of those is also located in Bailey.

"My my, Risner-sama. To think Risner-sama himself would visit our store directly! What may I help you with today?"

After leaving from the morning market's plaza, we have visited the Fiji Company together with Cedric-san and others. Thereupon, we had no appointment, but the branch manager immediately appeared at the storefront.

It seems like there was an employee who has recognized Cedric-san and immediately went to inform the branch manager.

"I'm sorry for the sudden visit. Actually, I'm looking for an article called soy sauce, I wonder if you are dealing with soy sauce here?"

"Oh my? Risner-sama desires the soy sauce too? Of course, we are dealing with them in this store."

It appears that the Fiji Company is dealing with soy sauce.

Moreover, from the branch manager's words, there were other customers in search of soy sauce.

"That's a relief. As expected, the demand has increased, hasn't it?"

"Yes. It has suddenly increased in the last two-three days. It apparently has something to do with the harbor's street stall."

"My, you know of it? As expected of this store's manager, you are well-informed."

"Information is the life force of the business."

"I'm ashamed to say, but I have not known of this flavoring until just recently."

"No, no, soy sauce is a commodity that finally came to light just recently, it can be said that it's only natural that Risner-sama didn't know of it. Me too, in spite of managing a store, I didn't give it much heed."

Cedric-san and the branch manager are smiling on the surface, but it has some tingling feeling. Furthermore, the "Fufufu" and "Hahaha~" I hear at the end of their sentences..... it must be just my imagination.

"So, Risner-sama. Have you visited our store to purchase the soy sauce today then?"

"That too, but there's something else. Do you have time?"

“Of course. Ah, I’m sorry for making you talk while standing at such a place. I will immediately guide you to the reception office.”

“Yes, thank you very much. —Then, Takumi-san.”

“Y, yes!”

Because I was completely absorbed in thoughts, I got startled when Cedric-san called to me.

“I will talk with the branch manager for a while, so, I’m sorry but——”

“Yes, we will look around at the products they have here, please don’t mind us!”

Because I wanted to be excused from going to the reception office, I told Cedric-san that we will wait here before he could say anything.

“Is that so, I understand. Ah, I’m sorry but can I leave my sons with you?”

“Yes, don’t worry.”

“Then, thank you.”

Saying such, Cedric-san followed after the branch manager to the reception office inside the store.

Thus, while the two are talking, we have decided to have other employees guide us around the store.

The place we were guided to was not shelves of goods for ordinary customers, but a warehouse with all kinds of goods.

Because there are many goods that are not displayed at the storefront, normal customers won’t be guided here unless they are special customers. Because feudal lord’s companions are special, I have gratefully let them guide me to the ingredient section.

I mean, if they have goods that they are not displaying at the storefront, they might have ingredients that I have not laid my hands on yet, right?

It turned into the feudal lord’s sons accompanying me while I do as I please, but because the two were interested, I decided to do what I wanted to.

That being the case, it’s the three of us, me, Allen, Elen, plus Theodore-kun, Latis-kun, and Joshua-san, the six of us in total. The other two guards went together with Cedric-san.

“Ah! Anko~”

Immediately after being shown to the warehouse, Allen and Elena found something they recognized, but——

“Allen, Elena. Those are red beans.”

““Red beans~?””

“That’s right. Anko is sweetened boiled red beans.”

Allen and Elena seem to think that the red beans I used to make the bean paste are called “Anko”.

““Red beans~ Swe~et one is anko~?””

“Yeah, that’s right.”

It’s not like all red beans made sweet is anko, but..... they are not wrong, oh well.

“Takumi-san, what is ‘Anko’?”

Theodore-kun who heard the exchange between me and the children became curious about anko.

“Umm..... have you heard from Otousan about Anpan?”

“Ah! I heard about that. It’s one of the new bread that recently became popular, isn’t it! I heard that Cream bread and Anpan can be eaten only in the town of Shirin where Ojiisama is!”

“Ah~..... yes, that’s it. It’s the filling of that Anpan. It’s made from these red beans”

“Eh, is that so!?”

“This will become Anpan?”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun are listening while surprised.

Thus, Joshua-san and the employee who guided us looked at us with surprised expressions.

“Takumi-san, do you mind talking over here?”

“N?”

N? Is there a..... problem?

While doubting, Joshua-san glanced at the employee.

“Ah~.....”

I finally noticed. Did I expose the method of making anko in front of the employee?

I don’t mind if the way to make anko spreads, but I don’t know how the Lauren House and Risner House would feel about that.....

“Umm, from now on, I’m supposed to teach how to make Anpan to a shop recommended by Cedric-san. And, if the store starts selling Anpan, they will have to purchase red beans on a regular basis.....”

“Let’s sign the contract of purchase!”

Joshua-san begins to speak with the employee at his side.

Perhaps, will the content of the contract include the incorporation of secrecy?

Joshua-san, I'm sorry for increasing your work, but I will leave it to you.

"Theodore-kun, I'm sorry. If I say carelessly, even more, I will make troubles for your Otousan, so I will answer what you want to know once we return, okay?"

"Yes, thank you very much. But, I will be able to eat Anpan, won't I! I'm looking forward to it!"

"I'm looking forward to it as well!"

"Is that so~ Then, I will make them with my best effort, so look forward to it."

""Yes!""

While Joshua-san and others were talking, I looked at the things around.

This place is apparently a place where all beans are stored. In addition to the red beans, black beans and almost the same as soybean "Round beans", there was something called "Flower Beans" that I have never seen.

"Ah, this is....."

There, I found familiar beans in a bottle.

It's a black oval of the size of the thumbnail with a cracky dent. It's slightly larger than those I know of, but the delicate smell is familiar.

"Oh my, does Takumi-san know of Kahee Beans?"

"Kahe~ beans?"

The employee who seems to have finished talking with Joshua-san taught me the name of the beans I was looking at.

Kahe~..... Ahh, Kahee, is it? In Syl's knowledge, the beans themselves are not suitable for edible use, but the extracted liquids are drinkable. That means, no need to guess, these are coffee beans, aren't they!

"It's my first time seeing the real thing. These are already roasted, aren't they? Are these used with water or hot water to make a black colored beverage?"

"Yeah, that's right."

It's coffee! Coffee!

I found coffee!

"These Kahee Beans are Risner's domestic production luxury item, so our country is not that familiar with them yet, but they are popular among nobles. I'm surprised Takumi-san was aware."

"Well, I have moderate knowledge about foodstuff....."

It's all knowledge imprinted by Syl, though.

"Is it possible to sell me these Kahee Beans?"

"We surely can, but the price is a little expensive?"

"That's fine. By the way, do you have a tool that handles these beans here?"

"Yes, we have. Shall I prepare that as well?"

"Yes please."

Alright! If they have a grinder, it looks like I will be able to make a coffee soon♪

Coffee after so long. Let's make it immediately after we return!

While cheerful that I obtained coffee beans, Cedric-san and the branch manager who seemed to finish discussing returned.

"Thank you for waiting."

"No, it wasn't that——..... N?"

"Takumi-san, what's wrong?"

I caught the sight of the mark on the documents Cedric-san held. That's probably the crest of this store.

Looking carefully, isn't it drawn everywhere including the shelves and bags?

Then, I remembered. That I have seen a branch of this store before, or not..... a different place. Where did I.....?

N~..... ah! That thing! I remember.

The sunken ship in the Mermaid Village! The marks drawn on the body and flags of the ship should be the same as this mark!

## Chapter 65

Owner of the Sunken Ship

"Cedric-san, do you know of Dietlinde?"

"Dietlinde, is it? ..... If I'm not mistaken, I heard such name in a report documents before..... Ah! Wasn't it the sunken ship of this store?"

"Yes, that's right. There, fortunately, were no casualties, but that was a really heavy blow....."

Yeah, as I thought, that mark is this store's mark without a doubt.

“In fact, the ship——Dietlinde, that sunk to the bottom of the sea, I have recovered it.....”

““..... Yes?””

When I convey that I have recovered the sunken ship, Cedric-san and the branch manager-san stare at me with absentminded expressions.

“..... The ship has sunk, you know?”

“Yes, I have found it at the bottom of the sea.”

“..... I think the report said it sunk quite deep, though.....”

“Just a bit of long-distance swim.”

“..... The ship should be a large model, how did you recover it?”

“I can use Infinite Storage. You have not heard from Isaac-san?”

“.....”

Cedric-san asks questions one after another, but after I simply answer them, he eventually becomes silent.

I thought that Isaac-san reported everything about me, but it appears he didn't tell Cedric-san about this.

I see, he didn't know about the Infinite Storage..... it appears I have exposed myself.

Well, Infinite Storage is convenient. I have gotten used to the life on Aetherdia too, it would be troublesome to keep on hiding it.....

“I'm sorry. I have not heard from Isaac about this. Have you really recovered Dietlinde?”

“Yes.”

“So, what does Takumi-san want to do with that ship?”

“Eh? Wouldn't you normally return it?”

Because I picked up a lost item, I feel like it should have been returned to the owner, but.....

N~? In Japan, found articles have to be delivered to the police. It should have been a usurpation if I took it..... what, is it different over here?

The way Cedric-san is speaking, it makes him sound as if I didn't have to return it.

“Then, will you return that ship to the owner?”

"Yeah. It seems to be loaded with cargo. Well, it has sunk, so I don't know what happened to the contents, but I think there should also be things that are safe."

Because the ship has sunk while stacked with cargo, I think there should be a considerable loss. Therefore, I think it would be nice if something was saved, even if little.

"Do you intend not to receive any compensation?"

"Yeah, that was my intention, but? Ah, if the burden of disposal is greater than what came back to you, I won't force you to take it back?"

Even if you recover what you can still use, there are cases where dismantling and disposing of the damaged goods will cost you, right? In that case, I wouldn't mind letting it fertilize in the Infinite Storage, you see.

"No! I think there are more things to obtain. Isn't that so?"

"Yes! Just as you said!"

When Cedric-san asks, the branch manager agrees exaggeratedly.

I'm told that ships on Aetherdia move with magic stones, and the magic stone used on this ship is considerably large and fairly valuable.

Apparently, because the cause of the sinking was damage in the ship's bottom which caused flooding, the magic stone has no problems and recovering that magic stone will sharply decrease the losses.

Listening further, found articles on Aetherdia are apparently fine to keep by those who find them. Even if you know the owner.

What's easy to understand is goods stolen by bandits. Those who exterminate the bandits have the rights to keep the stolen goods. In case the owner wants to recover the stolen goods by any means, he must buy back the goods with an appropriate amount of money.

While listening to Cedric-san's explanation, which reminds me, I have such knowledge, don't I~ I suddenly recall. It appears that considering Earth standards is mostly no good.

"Is that fine? If you sell the magic stone used in the ship, you could acquire a lot of money, you know?"

"I'm good on money. I will return the ship to the company."

The amount of money needed for repurchase is settled by the person who has the goods, so there's no problem even if you return it for free. If that's the case, I will choose that.

When I said so, the branch manager made an expression as if bursting into tears.

Well, if a ship loaded with cargo sank, it would cause a considerable amount of damage. You would cry if the losses could decrease even a little, wouldn't you~

Anyhow, as it would be better to check the ship and the cargo, we decide to move to a warehouse owned by the Fiji Company at the pier.

""Onii~chan, where to~?""

"N? Does Allen and Elena remember the sunken ship?"

""Ship~?""

"Right. The one Mirena-san asked me to remove."

""Yea, remember~?""

"That ship you see, I have found the person who lost it, so I'm going to return it."

""Return~? Why~?""

Ehh!? Why? N~..... Why, huh.....

"Umm..... you see? What would Allen and Elena do if the person walking in front of them lost something?"

""Pick up~?""

"That's right. Then, what after picking it up?"

""Give back~?""

"It's the same. Oniichan also picked up the ship, so I'm returning it to the owner."

""I see~?""

The two seem to be convinced.

Strictly speaking, this is a little bit different, but I would like for Allen and Elena to return lost items to their owners. This should be okay.

When we arrive at the warehouse, I immediately retrieve Dietlinde from the Infinite Storage.

For a moment, I thought that seawater might flow out when I take it out, but such a thing didn't happen. It seems that when I collected the Ship, the sea water it was flooded in didn't come with it. I'm glad~

"This is it. Is there no mistake?"

"T, there's no mistake! That's our ship!"

When I try to confirm, the branch manager who saw the ship shouts.

In addition, I heard Theodore-kun saying "Ama~zing", Latis-kun admiring with "Seriously....." and "A ship this big....." among others from the guards and employees.

I know that the sizes of Infinite Storages are different, but perhaps, something of this size wouldn't..... fit in? No, it can't be.

However, I'm removing the ban on Infinite Storage. It may be standing out, but let's leave it on high magical power.

So, about the Dietlinde, it appears to be Fiji Company's ship without a doubt. Besides, as I thought, the mark on the hull is the same as Fiji Company's mark. I made no mistake.

If that's the case, it doesn't seem to be necessary to investigate whether this is Fiji Company's ship or not.

"Then, is it okay to return it?"

"Yes! Thank you very much!!"

That being the case, I was able to return Dietlinde to the proper owner safely.

However, I didn't expect that the branch manager would give me the coffee beans, the necessary tools, and other things I wanted to buy free of charge.

I felt bad and tried to pay for it, but Cedric-san told me it would be better to accept at least that much. That being the case, I obediently accepted it and we left the company.

## Chapter 66

### A Dish of Desires

By becoming acquainted with the Fiji Company, I was able to find spices I have not yet obtained. This being a harbor trade town, they have everything which couldn't be found in Shirin.

In Shirin, I have obtained red chili pepper, black pepper, garlic, ginger, and cumin. And in Bailey, I purchased turmeric, cardamon, coriander, and clove.

I recognize them as ingredients for cooking, but they are used as materials for medicines and are not sold in food stores, but pharmacies instead.

They were used in Oriental medicine on Earth as well. I'm much obligated to turmeric hangover drink.

Since I have gathered so many spices, I want to make a curry. Curry and rice!

It's a Japanese staple home cooking said to rarely have people who dislike it! I want to eat curry and rice soon!

Long ago, I have been curious about spices used in the curry and looked them up on the internet, so I somehow remember the used spices. Therefore, let's collected the ingredients!

..... It's just, as expected, I don't remember the spice blend.

If I recall correctly, turmeric was somewhat larger in quantity, and the other spices should be completely different depending on the curry you make.

You can use many things to suppress the bad smell in a meat curry or use many things to complement the vegetable curry. The spiciness is naturally adjusted with the red chili pepper.

In short, it changes significantly depending on preferences.

Therefore, if I add the spices little by little, even I should be able to make it.

That being the case, let's challenge making curry right away!

◇ ◇ ◇

I have borrowed a place to prepare the food in the Risner mansion's garden.

At first, I thought of borrowing a section in the kitchen, but what I'm making is a curry, so..... I would feel really sorry if the scent of curry stained the mansion.

I even intended to go outside the town.

Now then, I'm making a curry, but what Curry will I make today?

Seafood curry is good too, but it's my first time today, so I think that orthodoxy basic curry would be better.

Onions, carrots, potatoes. Because there's no ordinary pork meat, Orc meat should be fine.

I stir-fry the meat and vegetables cut into bite sizes, and put it in the soup stock I made beforehand. I cook until the fire hits the vegetables.

Meanwhile, I prepare another frying pan, I cook oil and wheat while paying attention not to burn them, and add a suitable combination of spices. I pour in the broth made in a pot from boiling vegetables little by little, so it wouldn't make any lumps, and then put it back in the pot.

""Stir~""

"Yeah. Then, I will leave it to you."

""Yea!""

Allen and Elena have volunteered to help out, so I leave the stirring of the pot to them.

Next, I have to put in a subtle seasoning to bring out the flavor. The classic stuff when making a curry is ketchup and Worcester sauce, but..... I don't have either of them, huhh~ Ah, maybe I can use Turi fruit paste?

I also often heard of chocolate and coffee powder?

I have not found chocolate yet, and it's not like I can just crush the Kahee beans into powder..... let's take the simple approach here and use Rigo fruit and honey.

I'm suppressing the spiciness as much as possible, so Allen and Elena could eat it too, but it will become rather sweet if I put Rigo and honey in.

"All right! This should be fine. Allen, Elena, thank you. That's enough~"

""Ye~s."

Well, all that's left is to slowly let it simmer, so shall we get a little bit unfair?

"Aging."

Space-time magic I have learned just recently, **Aging**. This is a magic which makes the time of the target pass. By the way, this magic works only on non-creatures.

Using this magic, the curry matured instantly. And that's it.

I scoop the finished curry and sample it at once.

"Oh, feels nice."

It's not spicy enough for me, but the taste is quite delicious.

Like this, even Allen and Elena will be able to eat it.

"Here, Allen, Elena. Say ahh~"

""Ahh~""

"How is it? Is it spicy?"

""Delish~""

It seems the spiciness was suppressed to the extent that the two can eat it without any problems.

Then, let's write the blend of spices down before I forget. And, it would be better to use it as a base to improve the taste little by little.

""Uniyu~""

"N, what's wrong? Was it spicy after all?"

Allen and Elena pull on my clothes as if to complain about something.

""Onii~chan.""

"What is it?"

“”Many~””

“Eh?”

“”There~””

“Haah?”

When I looked where Allen and Elena were pointing, I saw people peeking from shadows at us.

Risner parents and children, the servants working at the Risner mansion, even Knights are there. I have not noticed a large number of people who have gathered until now because I was absorbed in making the curry.

It's my carelessness that I have not noticed them even though so many people gathered, but..... they were hiding so well I thought they have Concealment or Seclusion skills.

“..... What are you doing in a place like that?”

“But, Takumi-san! I smell such a delicious fragrance!”

“Ah~.....”

Cedric-san said as the representative of the crowd.

It appears they were lured by the scent of curry.

As expected of curry! To lure people to this extent.....

“Takumi-san, what is that?”

“It's a dish called Curry from my hometown.”

“Curry, is it?”

“Yes, that's right.”

Before we noticed, Cedric-san was peeking at the contents of the pot.

“It smells nice, but an incredible color it has.”

“Both the fragrance and color turned out like this because several herbs were used.”

“Herbs?! Even though it smells so appetizing?”

“That's right.”

Following after Cedric-san, Theodore-kun, Latis-kun, and naturally, the other people gathered around us.

“.....”

How do I control this situation?

N~ Should I let them eat right away? But, there's not that much of it. Would they leave if I let them have a lick of taste, I wonder.....

This, I will have to prepare a large amount.....?

Fortunately, the taste is satisfactory, and I have a large number of spices and ingredients in the stock.

"I will make everyone's portion in time for the din——"

"Really!??"

The people curiously staring at the pot instantly reacted to my words and raised their voices.

I beg you, let me speak until the end!

Ah, right, right. These people would eat bread instead of rice, and as expected, I will have to prepare other dishes with the curry. There are chefs among the people as well, so shall I tell them?

"Excuse me. This is more or less supposed to be a soup, so bread, salad, and necessary main di——"

""Leave it to us!"""

Therefore, let me talk until the end!!

When it got decided that they will be able to have dinner, the gathered people returned to their posts.

Thus, because the curry will be for dinner, I have stored our lunch curry without eating it into the Infinite Storage, and decided to have a lunch of a simple Cream bread and Anpan.

Well, they are Allen and Elena's favorite, so they had no problem with the change of menu.

After finishing the lunch, I wanted to start making curry again, but..... let's make seafood curry next? The people here are familiar with marine products, after all.

For the second time of making curry, I kept in mind to use wind magic to fire the fragrance of curry high to the skies.

Thanks to that, there has been no terror caused by the smell.

## Chapter 67

Captives

And, at dinner time——

“Yeah. This dish has a really nice fragrance, after all.”

It's us, Cedric-san, Theodore-kun, and Latis-kun at the Risner mansion's dining room.

Their daughter seems to be feeling slightly unsettled, so Olivie-san is with her.

“Chichiue~ I want to eat already~”

“Already~”

“That's so, isn't it? Then, let's eat.”

“”Yes, itadakimasu.””

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun urged Cedric-san that they want to eat.

Then, when the dinner started, the Risner parent and children ate the curry before anything else.

“”Delicious!””

“This is.....”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun expressed their honest impression. Because Allen and Elena have tasted it beforehand, I thought it was fine, but I'm glad it suits their tastes.

Cedric-san didn't give his direct thoughts, but his expression speaks for all.

“Allen, Elena, let's eat as well.”

“”Yea! Itadakima~su.””

Since I have confirmed the Risner parent and children reactions, I have decided to eat as well.

I'm slightly regretful that I had to give up on rice for bread because we are eating with Risners, but..... I will definitely eat curry and rice before long!

“”Onii~chan, this is delish too~””

“Is that so? I'm glad~ Eat lots, okay?”

“”Yea.””

The classic curry I've made during the day and this seafood curry taste quite differently, but it appears the children like even this curry.

“It's really good.”

“The jelly was delicious too, but to be able to even make a dish like this, Takumi-san is really incredible.”

“”Onii~chan, incredible~?””

“Yes, incredible.”

“Takumi-san is amazing.”

“”Yea, Onii~chan is incredible~ Ehehe~””

Ooh? Allen and Elena who have not talked with Theodore-kun and Latis-kun yet are suddenly having a conversation. That the topic is me is a little bit, but.....

“Onii~chan’s meals are delish~”

“Eating lots~”

“Is that so? Takumi-san, may I have seconds please?”

“Me too!”

“Of course, I don’t mind. Eat a lot. How about Allen and Elena?”

“”Will eat~””

The four children who are getting along well want second helpings.

While such harmonious air was drifting, Cedric-san who silently ate the curry suddenly stood up from his chair.

“Takumi-san!! This dish called curry is very wonderful! Such complex yet complete taste! In addition——”

And he suddenly became speaking out his impression like a food critic.

..... What to do? Cedric-san’s is different from the usual.

Have I perhaps mixed something strange into the curry? Is this world’s cardamon or clover actually used as stimulant medicine or something.....

It was such a doubtful scene.

Cedric-san’s sons Theodore-kun and Latis-kun were watching their father dumbfoundedly.

“Father, you are entirely different from usual.....”

“Yeah. It’s my first time seeing Father like that~”

Cedric-san was talking about the deliciousness of curry for ten minutes straight.

“It has been a while since I’ve gotten so passionate. Yeah, we are already fine, so you guys come down and eat too. Takumi-san, you don’t mind, do you?”

“..... N, no, it’s alright.”

Ah, it’s the usual Cedric-san.

Apparently, the servants were restless from wanting to eat the curry, so Cedric-san did a tactful thing and allowed them to leave the room.

I have left a large pot of curry in the kitchen before the dinner, but because the servants can't eat before the Lord of this house, Cedric-san, they had to standby.

Since they have gotten permission to eat the curry, they are probably moving to the kitchen now.

The servants waiting at the table withdrew and after a few minutes—

—Bam!

Suddenly, the door of the dining room was opened with a loud noise.

“Head Chef? What is the matter?”

It was the Head Chef of the Risner House who entered the dining room.

Cedric-san spoke to the Head Chef who entered in a rush.

“Excuse me, Dannasama! I’m aware that I’m being discourteous, but I couldn’t stay still after tasting that dish.....”

“That means, you were impressed by Takumi-san’s dish?”

The Head Chef instantly moved to my side and suddenly kneeled on the floor.

“Takumi-sama! That dish called curry is wonderful! It’s my first time experiencing such impact from eating a dish after such a long time! By all means, please make me your apprentice!”

“Eeh?!”

A, apprentice?! What is this Head Chef saying all of sudden!?

“..... Umm, I’m sorry.”

“Eh!? Why!? Are my abilities not enough?! Even though I look like this, I have been earnestly cooking until now! W, what am I lacking~?”

No, I’m not a cook in the first place, so I can’t take an apprentice. Therefore, I refused, but the Head Chef doesn’t seem to be convinced.

“Now there, Riyan. You must not trouble Takumi-san too much. Takumi-san is not a cook but a simple adventurer, so it’s not like he can take an apprentice.”

It’s exactly like that.

“However, Dannasama~”

“Well, I understand what Riyan is trying to say. Cream bread and Jelly, butter and soy sauce scallops, and now the curry. After making so many new dishes, it would be weird if you weren’t a cook.”

“Ehh.....”

..... He said something rude. To call me weird.....

"Takumi-san. Apprentice might be unreasonable, but are you planning on putting the curry spices on the market?"

Eh? Putting the curry spices on the market?

"Umm..... do you mean you would like to buy the recipe?"

"No, I don't wish to buy it individually like the Cream bread, but I think it's something that should be sold to a lot of people with a formal contract with a company."

The talk became somewhat big, didn't it~ But—

"I haven't thought about it."

"May I inquire why?"

"Yeah. Half of the ingredients used for the curry spice are used as medicinal plants. Using it individually would be rather more preferable, as it would be necessary to purchase the ingredients in large quantities otherwise. Therefore, I would like to avoid a sudden price jump of herbs used in medicine."

If you suddenly start using herbs like seasonings, won't the price skyrocket with high demand? If so, there would be people who won't be able to afford medicine anymore, I don't want that.

"I see, there's certainly a possibility of that. I will investigate a little, but if there's no problem around that area, would you consider selling it?"

"Yes. That wouldn't be a problem."

Cedric-san will conduct a market research regarding the sale of the curry spice, but it has been decided that I will tell Cedric-san only the spices that are used in medicine.

## **Chapter 68**

### Interaction

After the meal, we decided to move to the lounge and chat with Theodore-kun and Latis-kun.

Incidentally, Cedric-san apparently still has to work, so he returned to his office.

"Takumi-san, what monsters have you defeated so far?"

"What kind of place is a dungeon?"

"Umm..... you two have interest in such stories?"

""Yes!""

“Stories about defeating dragons are my favorite.”

“Mine too!”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun apparently love stories about adventure and heroic tales, so they asked about the stories of our actual experiences.

Therefore, I decided to talk a bit about the incident in Shirin.

“Allen-kun and Elena-chan are going on adventures together with Takumi-san, right? Isn’t it dangerous?”

“Ah~..... well, it’s not like there’s no danger, but you see. Allen and Elena are strong~”

“Strong?”

“Yea, strong~”

“Stronger than a wolf?”

“Than a goblin?”

“If it’s a wolf or a goblin, the two can easily defeat it~”

“”Ooh~””

“Amazing!”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun look at Allen and Elena with eyes full of respect.

“”.....””

As if shy by that, Allen and Elena who are sitting on both of my sides cling to me and hide their faces to escape.

“Look, Allen, Elena. You are being praised as amazing, you know?”

“”Uniyu~.....””

The two press and shake their heads from side to side against me. This is not shyness.....

“It seems they got so happy from being praised they got embarrassed.”

“Is that so?”

“It’s like that, isn’t it?”

“”Uniyu~””

When I say that, Allen and Elena press and shake their heads again.

No, this is adorable, but!

My cheeks loosened from seeing their unusual reaction.

After that, when I continued talking with Theodore-kun and Latis-kun for a while, Allen and Elena started participating in the conversation little by little.

Did they get a little bit closer?

◇ ◇ ◇

"This will be finished after it boils down."

"Red beans could be used in such way, huh."

Today, we have come to the Risner House's affiliated bakery. That is, of course, to teach them how to make Cream bread and Anpan.

Although I say that, because the jam buns have already spread, they know the way to insert the filling into the bread dough, so I'm only teaching them custard cream and red bean paste recipes.

Oh well, because the other side are pros, they were able to make it after I showed it once without any problem.

"That's all for the recipe. Because I think the boiling down and sweetness should be left to the store's preferences, please make it several times and search for the best one."

"It's certainly necessary to make it several times with various sweetness levels, but regarding how to make it, we will follow what we were taught. Iya~ nevertheless, it's like a dream to be able to make Cream bread and Anpan in our store!"

The shop manager has a very splendid store since he's a purveyor to a noble's house, but his personality is very broad-minded, so because he was a polite person right from the start, the teaching session progressed very smoothly. As expected of a person chosen by Cedric-san.

Because my instruction ended, I decided to make a new bread from here.

First, I mixed the liquid I just obtained by extracting it from Kahee beans with the custard cream and made a Cream bread with that.

It's faintly bitter, but I think even Allen and Elena would be able to eat this.

Kahee itself is a little expensive, so I don't think it's possible to sell this in a store, but it's enough to enjoy it by ourselves.

Next is, as expected, a curry bread. The filling is the curry I made yesterday!

The curry made for the curry bread has plenty of finely chopped vegetables and keema curry like meat.

It's more of a piroshki rather than a curry bread, but let's go with curry bread!

Speaking of curry bread, it's generally fried in oil, but I decided to leave out frying and bake it in an oven. Because I thought there would be ruckus again if I start frying it.

I wrap the curry bread and store it in the Infinite Storage. I think I will fry later in secret. Because of that, I made a rather large amount of curry and also prepared a lot of dough.

Ah, stretching the dough and wrapping it around a sausage to make a sausage bread might be good?

It's fine to bake it, but I would prefer to fry this as well, right~ Alright, let's make a large portion of this as well and store some in the Infinite Storage for later frying.

Next, I cut the dough which I molded into a round shape, and insert mayonnaise, tuna, and finely chopped onions. Right, it's tuna onion bread.

Ah, I should make tunamayo sandwich too. Let's make it next time~♪

Alright! Only fermenting and baking is left.

The moment the bread finished baking, the children gathered around the iron plate I have taken out of the oven.

""Everything seems so delicious!""

""Delish~""

"Allen, Elena. It looks delicious, doesn't it?"

""Looks delish~""

"Yeah, right."

In fact, today, Theodore-kun and Latis-kun came together with us for the bread making.

Although I say that, I invited them myself when Cedric-san informed me of the schedule.

Yesterday, Allen and Elena opened their hearts a little, so it was really good timing.

"The iron plate is hot, so don't touch it, okay~"

"Ye~s."

I removed the heat from the bread with magic and cut it into four equal pieces. Because there are six kinds, it would be certainly too much for the children to eat it all.

"Here you go."

"It's fine to eat it?!"

"Sure it is~"

"Wow~ Itadakimasu."

"Itadakimasu."

“Here, this is Allen’s and Elena’s.”

“”Yea! Itadakima~su.””

The four started eating the bread at once.

“Delicious (Delish~)”

The impressed voices of the four children splendidly harmonize.

“Anpan is delicious as well.”

“Aniue, the curry bread is differently delicious from the curry we ate yesterday.”

“”Cre~am!””

“That’s right. Cream bread is certainly delicious as well.”

“Yes, this Kahee Cream bread is also delicious. I couldn’t drink Kahee because it was bitter, but I can eat it if it’s like this.”

“”Yea!””

The four children were eating bread while talking about which they prefer. Un, un, they are getting along very well~

While observing the children getting so along——

“Takumi-dono! Every bread is really wonderful! By all means, make me your apprentice!”

“I’m sorry. I will refuse.”

“T, that can’t be~.....”

..... An apprentice appeared even here. This bakery’s shop manager.

Of course, I immediately refused.

“”Onii~chan.””

Ignoring the shop manager-san who’s hanging his head, after storing the bread I’m going to take with us into the Infinite Storage, the children who finished eating the bread came to my side.

Because Allen and Elena were clinging to me with all their heart, they were really happy when I gently stroked their heads.

“Takumi-san, it was very delicious.”

“It was delicious.”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun give me their honest impressions. What good children they are~

“Were they to your liking?”

“”Yes.””

“I see, I’m glad~ Then, your Otousan must be “still not here~” expecting us, so let’s return with some gifts.”

Cedric-san wanted to go with us, but he had to stay at home to tend to official duties.

“Ah~ Chichiue wanted to come along so much.”

“He was so disappointed when Joshua told him that he couldn’t go~”

Un, he looked extremely disheartened to me as well. Moreover, he was forcibly dragged to the office by Joshua-san.

As it seems he would escape from the house when a chance arises, I think we should return earlier.

“It would be too pitiful to keep him waiting, so let’s go, everyone~”

“Ye~s.”

## Chapter 69

Bandits

We have left from Bailey early in the morning and arrived at a certain mountain after a half day of walking.

“Joule, Feat, thank you.”

“Wafu” “Gau.”

Although I say that, I have summoned Joule and others after getting slightly away from the town and we moved on them, so it didn’t take that much time to arrive at the destination.

“N~, would it be better if you turned small here?”

“Kyan.” “Naa~”

It’s an unhabituated mountain, but it would be unsuitable to keep riding on Joule’s and other’s backs on this mountain, so I had them turn smaller.

The space between the trees is considerably narrower compared to the Gaya Forest, so it doesn’t seem like running around in their big forms would be good.

“Garu~”

Vector was in his small form since I summoned him. Well, although I say small, he’s as big as Allen and Elena. Rather, Vector is slightly bigger.

“Now then, what shall we do?”

“Herb~”

“Searching~”

“Eh? Herb searching? It’s not like we have accepted a request, it’s okay to play around, you know?”

When I asked the children what they want to do, they returned an unexpected reply.

I thought of receiving a request before coming here at first, but I somehow didn’t want to go to this place’s Adventurer’s Guild, so we have not received any requests today.

That’s why I thought of normally playing today, but to think they would want to do herb searching.....

“Lemme see~..... ah!”

Right. It might be a good idea to look for the materials and herbs used as spices for the curry. When I looked around lightly, and as I thought, I found a mint growing nearby.

“Allen, Elena. Shall we look for plants and herbs for today’s meal?”

“”Yea, let’s do it~””

Allen and Elena have displayed great motivation.

At the same time, Joule and others drew closer to us.

“Oh, everyone will help us out?”

“Kyan.” “Naa~” “Pii~” “Garu~”

That being the case, I thought of searching for plants and herbs while strolling around the mountain, but——

“”Ah!“”

“Allen, Elena?”

Suddenly, Allen and Elena began feeling presences from the surroundings.

When I also looked around with Detection, I sensed several presences at some distance away.

“Ah~.....”

Furthermore, they are surrounding us from all sides.

The presences are also gradually approaching us. This is obviously not the movement of animals or monsters. No need to guess, this is.....

And then, after a few minutes, ten-odd people holding weapons appeared.

We are just passing by, they won't be saying that, will they? As I thought, they are bandits, aren't they~

When I used Appraisal to see their status, their occupation had properly "Bandit" beside it. We have encountered a troublesome group.

"Head~ They are a man and two brats."

"No woman, huh. You bastards, kill the man and steal the valuables. Don't kill the brats, we are going to sell them."

"Ussu!"

It looks like fighting can't be avoided.

Even if you kill bandits, it won't become a crime in this world. But, I don't think of proceeding to kill them. I do not intend to hesitate because they are dangerous, but I don't plan on staining our hands on opponents of such degree. I would like to avoid taking lives as much as possible.

I thought of reaching my hands and pulling Allen and Elena behind me, but the two are already in a complete battle mode. Even if I tell them, they won't obediently back away, right?

"Allen, Elena. Are you not willing to let Oniichan take care of this?"

"Allen too~"

"Elena too~"

..... Yeah, they are eager to act.

"Oniichan wants to be entrusted with this?"

"" ..... Doing~""

They seemed to be conflicted a little, but they don't withdraw. How unfortunate.

"Ah~..... then, can you go easy? You must absolutely not kill, okay?"

""Can do~""

The two are usually obedient, but they are surprisingly belligerent.

"Joule, Feat, Bolt, and Vector will....."

"Kyan." "Na~u." "Pii." "Garu."

..... They are fully motivated as well.

..... You guys hold back too, okay? Please, avoid killing as much as possible."

"Kyan." "Na~u." "Pii." "Garu."

Everyone except Bolt were in their small forms, but all of them should be able to instantly kill if going seriously.

I beg you, don't overdo it! We obviously have too much fighting power!

"You bastards, let's go-!"

"Oooh ウウウ"

With the command of the man called Head, the bandits simultaneously rushed at us.

Using it as a signal, the children faced the bandits.

""Yaa!""

""Guwa.....""

"Kyan." "Nnaa." "Garu~"

""""Guwa.....""""

"Piii"

"Giyaa ウウウ"

The bandits decreased in numbers in no time.

Ah~ Lemme see, lemme see..... un, they are fine. They didn't die.

I thought it would be difficult to render the bandits incapable of fighting, but it appears the children can properly control their power. I'm a bit relieved.

"You bastards, what are you doing against brats, dogs, and cats!!"

"H, however, Head! These guys are str~ong!"

The Head gets angry seeing his underlings get beaten one after another, and the remaining underlings are preparing to flee.

""Yaa!""

"Gufu."

"Gawa."

Thus, Allen and Elena knock them out as well.

Not being able to endure, the Head faced the children while holding a knife——

"You bastards! If you want to live——guha!"

Vector slammed into the Head with all his power.

""""H, Head!!?""""

"Garu~♪"

The Head flew slightly backward, but Vector's attack was a simple ramming attack..... he will surely live.....

“T, there’s no way we can win against fellows like these~~~”

“Oopsy, I won’t let you escape.”

“Hiii!!”

Looking at their companions getting beaten one after another, one of the remaining bandits tried to escape.

I swiftly move behind him and place a knife against his throat.

“Are all of your companions here? Ahh, will you also tell me where your hideout is?”

“P, please wait-!”

“If you don’t answer quickly, my clumsy hand might slip, you know?”

“Hiiiiii!! Talk, I will talk! I will talk so, p, please spare me...”

When I lowered my knife, the bandit immediately answered my questions.

## Chapter 70

Hideout

According to what I heard from the bandit I have caught, there are less than ten of companions in the hideout.

Moreover, it seems that the hideout is in a place on this mountain.

In truth, I wanted to report the information obtained from the bandit when we returned to the town, but would it be better to clean up the hideout since it’s nearby?

“”Finished~””

While getting the needed information from the bandit, Allen and Elena ran up to me. It appears they have defeated all of the remaining bandits.

“Welcome back. Were you able to properly hold back, I wonder~”

“”Yea. Able~””

After confirming the defeated bandits just in case, there wasn’t anyone who died.

When I tied the bandits with a rope so they couldn’t escape and wondered whether to bring them with us to the hideout, Vector looked at me with some kind of expectations.

Somehow, when I tied the end of the rope from the bundle of bandits, Vector was——

“Garu~♪”

He was easily dragging ten-odd adult men behind him in a happy mood.

I thought that Vector looked strong the first time I saw him, but it seems it was just like that.

I couldn't be bothered, so I decide to have Vector transport the bandits.

We immediately went towards the bandit's hideout.

Will we arrive at the hideout soon? When I used Detection with such thoughts, there were seven responses. These responses must be the remaining bandits.

When quietly moving from there, we immediately discovered a hideout-ish cave.

When I peeped at the situation, I saw the bandits having a drinking bout at the cave's entrance. Their appearances are not different from the bandits we have defeated, but I use Appraisal to check just in case.

Un, they are bandits.

From what was told to me, the remaining numbers were around ten, so it can be said that seven is everyone..... but, because they use the inside of the cave as a dwelling, there's a possibility of others being inside..... as expected, even my Detection can't check the cave's interior.

Well, after tidying up the people outside, should we examine the cave too?

"Yaa!"

""Guha.""

"Kyan." "Nnaa." "Piii."

""""Gyaa ククク""""

"Garu~"

""Ugyaa-""

While having such thoughts, the children immediately defeated the bandits drinking at the front of the cave.

"Hahaha~"

My turn didn't appear once again.

Well, let's assume that it's alright that my turn didn't come. But, however!

"Vector! Stop chasing after the bandits while dragging bandits behind you."

Vector's behavior was a bit intolerable, so I have cautioned him.

"Garu~n♪"

However, Vector I have cautioned returned expression that seemingly wanted to say "Eh? Why?".

Vector should be the oldest one among the contracted beast, but..... can I settle this with being a simple-mindedness?

First of all, because I would feel awkward if the bandits we have caught with great troubles die, I unfasten them from Vector and tie them up to a nearby tree.

I ask Joule and others to watch after the bandits after tying up those who were rolling on the ground and decide to enter the cave with just me, Allen, and Elena.

""Onii~chan.””

“N?”

””There~””

Allen and Elena call me to halt and point at a wall immediately after entering the cave.

It looked just like a wall, but now that I look at it, it certainly looks suspicious. When I strongly push against the wall, the wall of rocks started moving. It was apparently a trapdoor.

“This is amazing.”

When I peek behind the moving wall, there was a small room filled with casually piled up things. Money, weapons, ornaments, art, and bottles of liquor.

I guess this is the treasury room where bandits store their loot. It's surprising to see a hidden room that can be only found in dungeons in a normal cave.

“Allen and Elena, good job noticing. You are amazing~”

””Ehehe~””

When I pat and praise Allen and Elena, the two get bashfully happy.

Now then, the rights to the bandit's property—all of the various articles transfer to those who caught them, otherwise, those who have defeated them. In other words, there's no problem for us to take it.

Therefore, I decided to store everything in the Infinite Storage for the time being. It would take time to sort it out. I will check the contents later.

After collecting the treasure, we continued walking to the depths of the cave.

When advancing smoothly to the depths of the cave, not meeting a single bandit on the way, we have arrived at a prison-like place.

Several women and children were locked in that prison.

When we arrive at the prison, the people inside got simultaneously scared. However, when they confirm our figures, they alternate their gazes between the children and me.

To them, it must look like I'm one of the bandits who abducted the children..... as expected, it will make me sad if they make such a mistake.

But, it's okay, right? The fright the women showed when we entered disappeared.....

"Umm, we are adventurers. We have defeated the bandits, so please be at ease."

"Eh? R, really?"

"Yeah, everything is all right now. I will open the prison now."

When I appeal to them that they are okay, that it's safe now, the voices of relief resound.

I immediately grasped the key hanging on the wall and unlocked the prison, then we took the escorted the people outside.

"..... We are saved, aren't we?"

After getting out of the cave, the women who saw the tied up bandits muttered. There were some who even shed tears.

I was worried about having the bandits who injured them at the same place as them, so I drove away the bandits to a blind spot. I would like them to endure with that for now.

Now then, the problem now is what to do with the women and children that were caught.

There's a distance of a half a day on foot from here to the town. It's not an unwalkable distance, but I'm afraid they don't currently have the strength to walk that far.

But, while that may be true, it's not like we can leave from here to get a carriage.

Although the bandits are tightly tied up, I can't be sure that there aren't any survivors. Of course, a monster attack is also possible. They won't be able to defend against that.

I could leave Allen and Elena with them, but although there wouldn't be a problem of fighting power, the girls' anxiety would be fanned with Allen's and Elena's appearances.

Conversely, staying behind myself and sending Allen and Elena to town.....

In the first place, I didn't have an opportunity to be separated from the two for a longer period of time yet. As expected, it's impossible to perform without rehearsal.

Hmm, I'm troubled..... what to do?

"Say, Joule. Could you pass a letter to the soldiers in the town?"

“Kyan.”

Oh?

After wondering whether Joule or others could run to the town on my behalf, I tried asking without expectations, yet Joule gave me a reliable reply.

“Eh? Will you be really okay? Can you go to the town alone and let them know?”

“Kyan!”

When I confirm with Joule just in case, Joule barks as if saying “Leave it to me”.

Shall I leave this to Joule?

“Then, Joule. Be careful, okay?”

“Kyan.”

I decided to have Joule go to the town with a letter.

The letter says that we have defeated the bandits and gained control of their hideout. I also wrote that there were women and children held prisoners in the hideout.

Then, I requested for their protection and arrangements for carriage and to escort the bandits.

Joule’s mission is to hand over that letter to someone in the town of Bailey and guide them to this place.

Just in case, I handed my identification papers to Joule, and I saw Joule off to the town.

## Idle Talk 8

Joule’s Errand

My name is Joule.

I’m a wolf-type monster known as Fenrir, a Contracted Beast of my Master, Takumi.

The reason I became Master’s Contracted Beast is that the Water God’s Head Retainer-sama said so. At first, I headed towards the person who would become my Master while thinking why the order came from Head Retainer-sama and not Water God-sama. Because I was told to, I had no choice but to go. It was like that.

However, the moment I saw the person who would become my master in the far distance, somehow, I was convinced that this person was my “Master”. I want to be helpful to this person, I thought.

Master didn't seem to be aware that I came to serve him as a Contracted Beast, but although bewildered, he accepted me. At that time, I got patted, but Master's patting is very exquisite.

It felt really good. I want to be patted more.

Master is an "adventurer," so he defeats monsters and travels to various places.

In that case, there are many opportunities that I can be active. I'm strong, I can give Master ride and travel fast.

He will pat me again if I do good, right? All right, I will work hard~!

Also, Master is accompanied by two children—Allen and Elena.

The two are very obedient, good children. Well, they are raised by my Master, so it's only given that they are good children.

Ah, I'm bigger, so I'm Oniichan, you know? That's why, I'm properly looking after them~

Feat, Bolt, and Vector who also are Contracted Beast have joined us, but everyone loves Master, Allen, and Elena. Of course, we, the Contracted Beasts also get along.

But, the number one Contracted Beast is me♪ Don't forget that part!

◇◇◇

Today, we were summoned by Master with the plan of giving Master and the children a ride up to the mountain where we would play a lot.

And yet, and yet! Many bad looking uncles turned up. They seem to be called "Bandits." They are apparently bad guys.

I won't forgive them for getting in my way! I will beat those guys to pulp~!

"Kyan."

"Guwa....."

Seriously~~~ so weak~ Even though they were in such high spirits, it's boring when they fall down so easily~

But, but, I got patted by Master~♪

After that, we moved a little and defeated those fellows friends, then Master went deep inside a cave and returned with many women and children.

He said they were caught by the bad guys. However, Master was troubled because of those people.

"Say, Joule. Could you pass a letter to the soldiers in the town?"

"Kyan."

It appears Master was troubled about how to return the people back to the town.

Because of that, he seems to want to call the people from the town. However, he can't leave the people here because it's dangerous.

If that's the case, leave it to me!

"Eh? Will you be really okay? Can you go to the town alone and let them know?"

"Kyan!"

Of course, I can. If it's for Master, I will do anything!

"Listen, okay? I don't mind if you move in your original form, but you have to be small in front of people, so you don't raise vigilance. Still, you could be mistaken for a monster, so make a distance at first and approach very slowly, alright?"

"Kyan, kyan."

Yeah, I understand! Leave it to me!

I descended the mountain while seen off by Master. On the way, when Master and others couldn't see me anymore, I returned to my big size. This way is faster, after all.

I also met wolves on the way, but wolves are not my match, you know~ Weak, weak!

I defeated them easily, but..... it's a pity I can't give them to Master. Master would praise if I brought them to him~ It can't be helped now, though~

After descending the mountain, I continued on the road we came from.

..... Umm, Master summoned us here, right? Un, there's no mistake.

—Sniff, sniff. Umm, people are that way. Would it be better to be small from here?

Alright, this is good! Then, let's go to town!

Ah! That's the town. And there's the place where people are coming in and out~

There he is. Soldier-san at the gate.

I go to the place where I would be visible to Soldier-san~

"Kyan, kyan."

O~i. I'm here~ Look over here~

Ah, he saw me.

Because people noticed me, I approach a little bit~

"Kyau~"

I'm not scary~ I'm not an enemy~

"What? A dog?"

"Seems like it. It's wearing a collar, so it's a pet dog?"

Is it fine now?

In that case, I will give you a letter from Master that's in a bag Master tied on me.

"Kyan."

Hey, Uncle. Read this letter~

I hold the letter in my mouth and slowly approach the uncles and co.

"Oi, that dog, it's holding a letter?"

"Haha. Seems like it. You want us to read it?"

"Kyan!"

Right, right. Uncles, please read it~

"Seriously? This dog, did it just nod?"

"Right~ It looked like that to you too~"

Because I thought it's already fine, I went with the letter close to the legs of the uncles and appealed.

"Here, give it to me."

One of the uncles received the letter.

Ya~y. Master~ I have properly handed over the letter~

"N~lemme see, lemme see.....——What!?"

"What's wrong? What's written in it?"

"Read it."

"N~.....——Eh, are these contents real? It's not a trap to lure us out, is it?"

It's not a trap! My Master wouldn't do something like thatmon.

Ah, right! Master gave me his identification for a time like this.

"Kyan."

Look, here~ look at it, look at it~

"What? Identification papers? Let's see.....——Wwha!?"

"What is it!?"

"This identification, it's from A-rank adventurer."

"Come again!? A-rank!? Is it perhaps from the person who sent this letter!?"

"That's probably it. Then, this letter should be genuine. We have to let now the top immediately..... ahh, we also have to confirm with the Adventurer's Guild!"

It seems they understood?

"Hey, you come too."

I was lifted by the Uncle.

I don't like being touched by strangers, but it can't be helped, so I will go obediently~

Rather, I'm a Fenrir you know, is it fine for you to take me inside the town so easily~? It's convenient for me, so I don't really mind, though~

"You, your fur is amazing, isn't it~ The touch feels soft and fluffy."

That's right. It's amazing, right! That's because my Master makes it beautiful!

Ojisan brought me to a place called Adventurer's Guild while stroking my fur.

This is the place Master receives work~

After coming inside, Ojisan addressed a woman and asked about Master.

"Yes, indeed, that adventurer——Takumi-sama has come to this town. He's acting together with two little children, so I think he sent this puppy to deliver the message because he didn't have anyone else to let the town know."

Yeah, yeah, right, right. Oneesan, right on the money~!

Allen and Elena are still small, you know? To separate them from Master, I, Feat, and Bolt wouldn't permit it.

Vector is..... n~ I dunno. He just became our friend, I have not grasped Vector's personality yet~

"If that's the case, the contents of the letter must be true. Prepare a carriage immediately!"

"Understood. Ah! It would be better to report this to Feudal Lord-sama....."

"Feudal Lord-sama? Well, of course, we will report after bringing the bandits and the kidnapped people back?"

"No, I didn't mean that..... Takumi-sama and the children are Feudal Lord-sama's acquaintances, so perhaps Feudal Lord-sama will have instructions to give....."

"What!? Is that? Seriously?"

"Yeah, it's the truth."

"As expected a low-class soldier like me couldn't go to bring the news~"

"I will request the Guild Master to contact Feudal Lord-sama."

“Ooh! Then, I will leave it to you. I will return to the gate and advance the preparations.”

N~? Has the discussion finished?

“Kyan.”

Hey, hey, you didn’t forget about my duty to guide you there, did you?

“Ahh, right. The location of the bandit’s hideout was written in the letter, but it also said that you could guide us. Will you obediently wait here until the preparations are done?”

“Kyan.”

Alright, alright, it seems he didn’t forget. Well, it can’t be helped, so I will patiently wait. I’m a good boymon.

However, I want to quickly return to Master’s side, so hurry up, okay?

## **Chapter 71**

Return

After seeing Joule off, I decided to distribute emergency food to the people who were held as prisoners. Because they seem to have not eaten anything decent for a while.

I will have Feat and Bolt continue watching over the bandits and surroundings, and I think of asking Allen and Elena to help me.

..... Vector is sprawled next to the bandits. He seems to be sleeping, so I will leave him alone.

“Allen, Elena. Come and help me for a bit~”

“”Ye~s.””

Now then, what should I cook? I think something easy to digest sounds good, but..... would a tasty soup with well-boiled ingredients be good?

“”What doing~?“”

“Could you two grind this?”

“”Yea, got it~“”

I will have Allen and Elena make fish balls.

I fillet the Arrowfish we obtained in the Dungeon of Ripples and ask the two to grind them with a pestle. I don’t have a food processor, so we use a mortar and pestle for grinding medicinal plants as a substitute.

Mortar and pestle——I have acquired a few sets for when making curry spices.

While Allen and Elena are working, I put water in a pot and chop vegetables one after another.

“Allen, Elena. How is it?”

“”N~?“”

I take a peek at the fish the cooperating children ground.

“Oh, it looks good~”

“”Onii~chan, done~?“”

“Yeah, it’s done~ thank you.”

“”Yea!“”

I receive the fish paste Allen and Elena made, mix it with eggs, minced ginger, and salt..... and it’s done!

From what I remember, the method of making fish balls included potato starch, but I don’t have it so it can’t be helped. I do have corn, though~ Let’s look for the potato starch next time and use this for today!

“Allen, Elena. Next, do this like that.....”

The vegetables are boiled just right, so I show them how to scoop the fish balls on a spoon and put them into the pot.

“Make them into mouthful sizes and put them in. Can you do it?”

“”Can do~?“”

“The hot water will jump out if you put the fish balls in the pot too vigorously, so do it slowly, okay?”

“”Yea!“”

“Alright! Then, let’s do it.”

The three of us peacefully insert the fish balls into the pot.

After the fish balls are cooked, I adjust the salty taste..... and it’s done!

The seasoning is simple with salt. I could have made it with soy sauce or miso too, but they should be more used to eating the saltiness.

“”Looks delish~?“”

“Thank you. Would Allen and Elena like to eat too once we distribute it to everyone?”

“”Yeah!“”

Without delay, I serve the soup in bowls and distribute it to the children and women.

The tableware I had at hand wasn't enough, but I somehow managed by using cups as soup bowls. I should get a little bit more tableware, don't I?

A chance for distributing emergency food like that might not happen again, but I will purchase more immediately after returning just in case.

Also, on occasion, let's purchase proper furniture, so I don't have to use a wooden box instead of a kitchen table. I would also like nice stools for Allen and Elena.

""Delish~ right~""

"Nnya~" "Piii." "Garu~n♪"

Allen and Elena start eating together with all contracted beasts except Joule.

When I was about to deliver the soup to Vector, he was standing on alert before the pot before I noticed..... what a calculating personality Vector has~

Once Joule returns, I will let him eat lots as a reward.

After the meal had finished, their complexions got a little better, and they also seem to have calmed down. They thanked us for the meal, and said "It was delicious" as their impressions.

After the meal, we have spent the time slowly.

Then, before the sun started setting, I could see the soldiers climbing the mountain. It seems Joule returned and brought along people.

(Master, I have returned~!)

"Eh!?"

Joule who swiftly returned plunged into my chest.

At that time, a boyish voice resounded directly in my head.

(I was able to do it properly~ Praise me, praise me~!)

I heard the voice again. This is Telepathy.

The owner of the voice is definitely Joule.

"There, there. Joule, thank you~"

"Kyau~n, kyau~n"

When I pat Joule who wonderfully accomplished his errand, he let out a comfortable cry.

In the meanwhile, when I confirm Joule's status, there was Telepathy as I thought.

(Joule, when did you become able to use Telepathy?)

There are others around, so I use Telepathy as well and try asking Joule.

(Just a little bit ago! I was able to use it while returning! With this, I can chat with Master~)

(That's right~)

It appears he learned it while on the errand. With this, I'm able to communicate with Joule without speaking.

Until now, the proficiency of my Telepathy skill was low and I could use Telepathy only in a one-way. However, because Joule and others understand my speech, I didn't find the need for Telepathy.

Although it's a perfect skill to give instructions to others without letting others know.

(By the way, Joule. Could you stop calling me Master?)

(Why~? Gushujinsama doesn't like it~?)

I decided to change Joule's way of addressing me.

Although no one would hear our conversation, being called Master is a little bit embarrassing, so I would like to be called differently. Urgently.

(N~ Rather than not liking it, I won't be able to get accustomed to it, or won't be able to feel calm? Just Takumi is fine.)

(Muu~)

When I told him he could call me by my name, Joule raised a displeased voice. He apparently doesn't like to call me by my name.

(You don't like that? Then, do you have an easy way of addressing me that isn't Master?)

(N~~~ Then, can I call you Oniichan?)

(Yeah, you can.)

(Ya~y. Oniicha~n.)

I'm used to be called "Oniichan," so I would prefer that over Master. In the first place, Joule and others also seem like younger siblings to me.

By the way, according to Joule, Feat and others are also apparently calling me Master.

It's possible that Feat and others will learn Telepathy too, so I spoke to them and told them not to call me Master.

Then, the other three also settled on the "Older brother" relationship.

I'm interested in how they will address me now, but I will look forward to the day the three animals can speak to me directly.

(Ah, Allen, Elena. I'm back~)

Joule switches his gaze to Allen and Elena and jumps into their embrace.

""Jou~le?""

(That's right! It's me!)

""Ohh~ Jou~le, welcome back~""

(I'm back~)

Although surprised by Joule's Telepathy, Allen and Elena immediately started playing with Joule who safely returned.

"Takumi-dono."

While watching over the children, my name was suddenly called.

"Eh!? Ricardo-san?"

When I look back, I saw that the soldiers were already here. It appears they arrived while I was talking with Joule. Among them was a Knight of the Risner House—Ricardo-san.

It must have been Ricardo-san who called me. Apparently, not only soldiers were dispatched to secure the bandits, but Knights as well.

"Were you dispatched by Cedric-san?"

"Yes, that's correct. It's only natural for us to come when Takumi-dono is awaiting support after catching bandits."

Natural..... is it? Rather, they have already reported to Cedric-san, huh.....

Umm..... this matter won't raise any ruckus, nor it's something to get angry about, right?

"Did Cedric-san say something?"

"He was grateful. The actions of these bandits were recently too flashy, so the damage they caused increased. I would like to thank you as well. Thank you very much."

Ricardo-san lowered his head, and I panicked.

"N, no. It's only by accident that we have encountered them....."

"But still. It's thanks to Takumi-dono that these people were safely rescued. By the way, Takumi-dono. These animals are..... putting the puppy and kitten aside, is that bird perhaps a Thunderhawk? Also, that red one is still young, but it looks like a Scarlet King Leo to me....."

“Ah.....”

..... Crap.

## Chapter 72

Return 2

“Umm.....”

Ricardo-san has properly seen my contracted beasts.

Moreover, didn't he completely saw through Vector's real identity!

It appears that Scarlet King Leo that is Vector can be distinguished even in the small form.

Un, I knew! Of course, I knew!

When Joule gets small he looks like a puppy, Feat looks like a kitten, however, the little Vector still looks like a lion!

Because the women I have saved didn't make a fuss about it, I completely forgot to return him~~~

As expected, it wouldn't be possible to deceive him after seeing this much. Un, let's prepare for the worst and introduce them~

“Ricardo-san, those children are my contracted beasts.”

“Contracted beasts!? Eh, that harmless-looking puppy. And also that kitten, they are monsters!?”

Hearing that they are my contracted beasts, Ricardo-san finally realizes that Joule is not just a puppy, but a monster.

I could have insisted that Joule and Feat are just normal pets. However, that would spring discussion where the two came from. That's why told him honestly.

But well, it would be safer to be quiet about what type of monsters they are.

“I'm sorry, but please return first Bolt, Vector.”

“Piii.”

“Garu~n.”

Because I'd like to avoid further troubles, I have Bolt and Vector who's identity have been seen through return into my shadow first.

Fortunately, we weren't near the bandits and the saved women and children, so no one except Ricardo-san and the several people who came to us got to know, so it unexpectedly didn't become an uproar.

Allen and Elena are currently embracing Joule and Feat, so I left them as they are. I still have not given Joule his reward after all.

"So, Ricardo-san. What shall we do from now on? Do you have any instructions?"

I have plainly evaded the topic and asked Ricardo-san about his original purpose.

He probably approached us only to give his thanks for capturing the bandits.

"Ah, yes, that's right. Takumi-san, please depart towards the town immediately and take the women and children with you."

The people who were victims of the bandits are to return to the town first, and the bandits will be escorted later. Also, some will remain here at the hideout and watch out for the bandit remnants who will return tomorrow, so we are splitting into three groups.

"Also, I have a message from Cedric-sama. 'Please return at once'."

"..... Roger."

That message without a doubt doesn't mean "to the town," but "to the mansion."

Don't make any detours and return straight to the house.

While talking with Ricardo-san, the preparations to descend the mountain has been already finished.

Well, the bandits have been properly restrained, all that was left was to prepare the women and children for the travel. They have been divided into groups of those who can't move by themselves and those who can.

Besides, in order to return before the night falls, they couldn't afford to be slacking off.

I descended the mountain together with children at the end of the envoy, and we returned to the town in carriages that were prepared at the bottom of the mountain.

◇ ◇ ◇

"Takumi-san, Allen-kun, Elena-san, welcome back."

When we return to the Risner mansion, Cedric-san came to greet us first for some reason.

At glance, he seems to be smiling, but..... somehow, he's exuding a different emotion. An angry one at that.

"..... We have returned. Cedric-san, thank you very much for dispatching your people. Thanks to that, the matter has been smoothly settled."

"No. That's a matter of course, so please don't mind it. Rather, I should be the one thanking you for catching the bandits who were rampant in my territory."

Let's go to the office first, we went to Cedric-san's office first just as he said, but Cedric-san's state is really on my mind.

What is it..... as I thought, he seems to be angry.....

But, the last words we have exchanged were words of gratitude. Ricardo-san thanked me for the bandit's matter as well..... then, is it a different matter?

..... Have I done something to spoil Cedric-san's mood?

It would be faster to just ask about it myself, huh.....

"Umm..... Cedric-san. Did we unknowingly do something to you?"

Because we have arrived at the office, I asked him at once.

"No, there's not such a thing."

"..... Is that so?"

Cedric-san denied it. It doesn't seem like we have done something, but.....

"Yeah, it just when I tried to ask about the new bread I had received yesterday, Takumi-san and children have disappeared first thing in the morning."

"....."

Eh!? Cedric-san is in a bad mood because of that!?

In fact, yesterday when we returned with the new bread, Cedric-san had a visitor, so we left it with Joshua-san. That day, we weren't able to meet with Cedric-san at all.

And because today, we have gone out early in the morning, we weren't able to meet Cedric-san again.

No, of course, I have notified the servants that we are going out, but..... Cedric-san is angry about that..... Rather, that's the cause of his sulkiness?

"Ce, Cedric-san, I'm sorry for not directly talking to you ☺!!"

"No, no, there's no need to report to me every single time Takumi-san goes out."

"N, no! I should have given you a word before leaving."

Yeah, he had some impressions about bread, but he couldn't meet me. What to say about this reason..... I couldn't even imagine it.

"Then, please keep me company and slowly talk to me about the bread later, okay?"

"Yes!"

When Cedric-san shelves the matter regarding the bread, he then fixedly stares at Joule, and Feat Allen and Elena are holding.

"So, Takumi-san. I heard that it was a puppy who informed the town about that matter? It's the one Allen-kun is holding, right? You also had a kitten..... you have not had any animals with you until now, didn't you? Since you have sent it on an errand, it's not like you have picked them up today, right? Just where these children were until now?"

Because there were no animals with us since the day we arrived at Cedric-san's mansion, he's curious about where they have been staying until now.

Well, since my contracted beasts have been exposed to by Ricardo-san and he will surely let Cedric-san know later, I have no intention of concealing Joule and co.'s existence now.

"These children are contracted beasts."

"Contracted beasts?"

"Yes, that's right. Therefore, I don't usually summon them."

"Is that so? Weren't you reserved at our home?"

"No, that's not the case. There are not many opportunities to summon them within a town, so. Ah, in addition to these two, I also have another two contracted beasts."

Ah, it's only natural, but I keep silent about Kaiser.

"They are obedient and adorable for being monsters, aren't they? I'm not much knowledgeable about monsters, but what kind of monsters are they?"

"....."

The problem is Joule's and others' race. Now then, what should I do?

I would like to keep it secret from as many people as possible, but—I don't think it's necessary to keep it a secret from people who are taking a good care of me.

I know that Cedric-san isn't a person who would make a fuss about it even if he gets surprised.

In that case, shouldn't I normally tell him?

"Allen-kun, Elena-san. What kind of monsters are those children?"

""..... Nnya?""

While worried about what should I do, Cedric-san suddenly switched his question to the children.

Allen and Elena alternated between Cedric-san's and my face. And then—

""Umm, you see~.....""

"Fuenrir~!"

"Kyan!"

“Cel taiga~!”

“Nnaa!”

When Allen held up Joule and showed him to Cedric-san, Joule cried in greetings. Then, when Elena held up and introduced Feat, Feat also cried in greetings.

“Haah?”

Cedric-san raised his voice in surprise at the children’s words. Following after that, he turned towards me while making gigigi sounds.

“Takumi-san?”

“Ah, by the way, the other two are——Bolt, Vector, come out~”

“Piii.”

“Garu~n.”

Taking advantage of Allen’s and Elena’s actions, I summon Bolt and Vector and show them to Cedric-san.

“Wwha!?”

Cedric-san who saw Bolt and Vector was lost for words at last.

Unexpectedly, the impact seems to have been really large.

## Chapter 73

Trust

It was several minutes later that Cedric-san regained his motions. I heard him quietly mutter “It’s Takumi-san after all.....” that time. It was a trivial mutter that an ordinary person wouldn’t be able to hear, but I ended up catching it with my hearing ability that was increased by the improvement of my physical abilities.

..... To consent just because “it’s me”..... I wonder about that.

Whether to insert a tsukkomi for being treated like that, or be delighted that he got used to my out of standard affairs..... un, it’s troubling.

First of all, let’s ignore Cedric-san’s muttering.

“Fenrir and Celestial Tiger..... in addition, Scarlet King Leo and Thunderhawk..... it was something I’ve asked, but was it all right to tell me?”

“I didn’t intend to keep it a secret no matter what so it’s fine.”

I regard highly Allen’s and Elena’s opinion of other people.

Since the two have introduced Joule and Feat by themselves, it means the two have befriended Cedric-san.

I mean, the two won't talk to people they meet for the first time or people they don't trust in the first place.

On the contrary, they keep quiet even if spoken to.

If they get used to you, they will return a greeting if greeted, but it takes a certain level of trust before they will hold something like a conversation with you.

"A person Allen and Elena trust" □ "A person that is harmless to us, or perhaps even beneficial"

I perceive it like that.

"Well, I would like if you could avoid talking about that if possible though."

"No, no! I won't! This is not a piece of information that can be readily spread to others!"

"Hahaha~ Then, it's alright."

Un, because he gave an immediate reply, Cedric-san is a good person as I thought.

After that, we have explained the details of meeting the bandits and going towards the hideout to Cedric-san. It was like a light investigation. Well, it was in a fixed form so it finished soon.

After speaking about the bandits, we talked about the bread as promised.

"What was that whitish thing you have used on the fish bread?"

"Ah~ are you perhaps talking about mayonnaise?"

"Mayonnaise is it?"

From the new bread that was brought to Cedric-san, he was most interested in the Tuna Onion Bread. Moreover, as soon as he bit into it, it wasn't the tuna, but the mayonnaise that startled him.

Dishes made out of tuna exist, I have apparently just not found them yet, so he knew that it was a fish.

Dried, salted, pickled, pickled in oil..... because this is a world where such techniques are indispensable, it might be only natural to say that they have it.

There are also other techniques such as smoking and cheese processing.

It's just that they recognize them as finished products and eat them just like that. There seem to be little to no improvements after that.

Even if they took another step, the food development wouldn't stagnate for hundreds of years.....

"Yeah. Put egg yolk into a little of vinegar, mix in oil and add flavoring. You can mix it with fresh vegetables (salad), or use on dishes as a sauce."

I saw sparkles in Cedric-san's eyes.

Yeah, I can understand what he wants to say even without hearing it~

“..... I will teach it to the Head Chef next time.”

“Thank you very much!”

I told Cedric-san that I would teach the mayonnaise recipe to the Risner House's Head Chef before he could ask.

And while at it, I will ask him to pass the information to the cooking department of the Craftsmen Guild.

Since Cedric-san doesn't know, I think that there's nothing like mayonnaise on Aetherdia.

I'm sure that spreading mayonnaise will be convenient. If it spreads, I should be able to avoid troublesome situations when I run out. It's for the future.

Well, I wonder if someone who will sell mayonnaise is going to appear soon~ I have such little scheme. It would be better if I don't have to make it myself.

Ah~ but, I will have to properly convey to use fresh eggs and tell them about the length of time which food products can be eaten. Also, to be careful of overeating?

“Ah, right, right. Takumi-san, there hasn't been a problem with the ingredients for the curry spice, may I push the discussion forward?”

“Yes, go ahead.”

I see, there hasn't been a problem with the medicinal plants~

“I'm planning to bring the discussion to the Fiji Company since they are acquainted with Takumi-san. They are indebted to Takumi-san there, so the interest rates for Takumi-san should be quite flexible.”

Apparently, the curry spice will get me percentages of the sales, not just money from the recipe itself.

Although Cedric-san undertook the negotiations, why do I feel like there's no profit for him?

“That dividend? Is Cedric-san getting something out of it?”

“Me? Why?”

“Eh? Why, you ask..... Cedric-san should receive remuneration too, right? You were the one who is going to commercialize the curry spice, you were the one who examined the state of the medicinal plants, you will also surely undertake more negotiations in the future. I myself haven't done anything, you know?”

Even though I was the one who provided the recipe, I really did only that.

Cedric-san is going to obviously spend more time and labor than the time I spent on the spice mix.

Rather, I wonder if the curry spice is fine to spread just like that..... I gave it a passing mark, but it's far from complete. There's room for improvement.

Crap..... I started feeling a bit uneasy.....

Ah, but the chefs of the Risner House are using the curry spice I have given them and they are experimenting on what food it matches with. The quality and differences will spread at the hands of the people.....

Anyhow, people who will research the blend of spices itself may actually appear. That wouldn't be possible unless the spices are widespread.....

Then, it's fine, isn't it? To leave it like that.....

"No, no, if it's profits, I have them."

Eh? Cedric-san has profits too?

"That the spice will spread with its place of origin in our territory is a profit in itself. And most importantly, my relationship with Takumi-san is my biggest profit. Please, accept the remuneration without minding, Takumi-san."

"....."

The relationship with me is a profit, huh.....

Because I'm an A-rank adventurer and it would be easy to obtain materials of high-rank monsters? ..... To be frank, it doesn't need to be me. There are other A-rank adventurers.

Because I will be useful in subjugating bandits like this time? Although I say that, it's only by coincidence that we came across the bandits.

Contract with S-rank monsters? I've just told him about it, so it's weak as the reason.

Speaking frankly, I don't think that I have that much of a value.....

"Kukuku~ It's curious, aren't you~"

For some reason, I was laughed at by Cedric-san. Was I making such weird face, I wonder..... I'm frowning, so it's quite possible.

But, I think that it's reasonable. It's difficult for me to accept it as a profit.

"Well then, Takumi-san. Won't you let me eat 'French Toast' as the compensation for my labor?"

"French Toast, is it?"

I didn't think that a dish like that will come out off Cedric-san's mouth.

"I hear that it's Allen-kun's and Elena-san's favorite dish. They spoke about it to Theodore and Latis."

Ahh~ Which reminds me, the topic of the children's favorite bread came out when Allen and Elena were getting along well with Theodore-kun and Latis-kun~ So they told about it to Cedric-san, huh~

I see, being able to eat unusual food and receiving my guidance becomes my value, huh.

Even if I think 'it's only food,' I ascertained its value back in the Shirin as well.

"Roger. I will make it first thing in the morning."

If French Toast will make Cedric-san happy, why don't I make it!

""Furenh Toast~!""

When I announce French Toast for tomorrow's breakfast, Allen and Elena who were obediently sitting beside me were delighted.

They really love French Toast.

"Kyan! (Oniichan, I want to eat it too!)"

"Nnaa!"

Following after them, Joule and Feat also appealed.

I have also received Joule's telepathy.

The next morning, I've made the French Toast as promised, but rumors that I was making something unusual again spread around the mansion for some reason, and the servants of the Risner House quickly gathered.

Un, everyone what happened to your work.....

In order for the mood to not become like during the curry all over again, I showed the chefs how to make it (they have pleaded with me, so I allowed it) and left it all to them. As expected, I wouldn't want to make it for everyone all by myself!

By the way, we and the Risner family had the bread I've baked myself, but others used a normal, round bread.

They were further astonished by the baked bread, but the French Toast was naturally a great success.

It reached the extent that a French Toast occasionally appears on the dining table of the Risner House.

## **Idle Talk 9**

Marianora's Observation Records 1

I'm Marianora. I'm the God of Creation of this world, Aetherdia.

I have four children who are supporting me.

Fire God Salamanteel, Water God Windell, Wind God Sylphreel, Earth God Nomoodle.

All of them are adorable kids.

One of such children of mine apparently has children! That means, my grandchildren. Grandchildren!

I would like to hold them in my hands and love them to my heart's content, but..... how unfortunate. It looks like there are circumstances and I'm unable to meet them~

I will eventually get to meet them, I decided to look forward to it.

Then, one day—

"My, oh my?"

"Marianora-sama, did something happen?"

Because I suddenly spoke out, the head retainer of Light who was on my side, Luce worriedly called out to me.

"Sylphreel you see, I feel like he failed again~?"

"Sylphreel-sama did....."

One of my children, the most enthusiastic and diligent at his work, the child who rules over the wind. Because he's a bit of a scatterbrain, he fails once every millennium, doesn't he~

This time, he tried to fix a distortion, but he made a mistake in the amount of power, didn't he? My, my because of that, a person got involved, huh.

He's a hopeless child, isn't he? Should I be happy that only one person got involved? It appears he's getting reincarnated, so let's give that man a blessing as well.

Oh my, does Sylphreel perhaps intend on leaving those children in that man's care?

Yeah, I was right after all. One way or another, we are all worried about those children, aren't we?

"Marianora-sama?"

"My, my, I'm sorry. It appears that Sylphreel made a mistake in the amount of power he used."

"Eh!! Is there any damage!?"

"One man from another world got involved."

“Eh!?”

“First of all, I will talk with a person in charge of that place~”

Although it's just one person, a dweller of another world has gotten involved, I have to talk with a god of that place.

Thinking such, I left things in Luce's care and prepared to cross over.

◇ ◇ ◇

The person Sylphreel got involved and apologized to——Takumi-san, he's a person from Earth, right?

Now then, what should I do? There are numerous gods on Earth. I'm troubled at whom am I supposed to meet~?

Let's see~ Takumi-san is Japanese, so should I meet someone from there? Japan, huh..... umm..... would Amaterasu-sama be good to meet? It would be easy to meet if it's that person since we are already acquaintances.

I immediately went towards Amaterasu-sama's place.

“Excuse me for intruding.”

“N? Ohh! Isn't that Marianora-sama! Long time no see!”

“Yes, it has been a long time. Amaterasu-sama, please excuse me for the sudden visit.”

“I don't mind, don't mind. Come whenever you please. So, what is your visit about?”

Amaterasu-sama welcomed me who suddenly came over.

Amaterasu-sama is a person with long, glossy black hair and obsidian-like eyes, she a serene-like goddess. We are both goddesses, but she's a woman I admire very much.

Especially that voluptuous chest and those killer hips! So enviable~~~

Ahh, it's not the time to be thinking about such a thing.

“I'm truly sorry, Amaterasu-sama. Today, I came to give you an apology.”

“Apology?”

“Yes. Actually, one of my children involved one of the humans from here while repairing a distortion.”

“Hm? Wait a moment.....—Ah, so it's that. Yeah, it certainly happened. I didn't notice because it wasn't a large number of people but just one. Don't worry about the casualty. I feel sorry for him, but it won't have any influence here, so it's fine. Rather, I should be sorry for being late with dealing with the distortion from our side.”

“No, don’t mention it.”

It appears that Amaterasu-sama hasn’t been aware of this event yet. I’m glad she isn’t angry because of the casualty~

Even if just one soul disconnects from the cycle of life, the resources of that world could decrease. When that happens, it would mean an outbreak of chaos. It’s just a minor detail, but Amaterasu-sama’s work has definitely increased. Despite that, Amaterasu-sama said not to mind it in that way. What a nice person~

“So, what happened to him?”

“The plan is to reincarnate him in my world. We are preparing for that now.”

“Ah, since his soul got completely altered, it’s not possible for him to return, huh. Yep, I understand. Well, if it’s you, I don’t have to worry about him being treated unfairly. I leave him in your care.”

“Yes. I will properly look after him.”

He has already received my blessing, so I will immediately know if something happens to him and I think that Sylphreel with a strong sense of responsibility also won’t take his eyes off him, so it should be fine.

“So, Marianora-sama. I wonder if you have time for a cup of tea?”

“Yes. Would it be all right for me to keep you company?”

“Of course it is! I will prepare it right away.”

I was invited for tea by Amaterasu-sama, so I spent a little of leisure time.

“Oh my. This is very delicious, isn’t it?”

“Isn’t that right? This is ○○do’s roll cake! This has been recently my favorite!”

“There are many of very delicious things, aren’t there~ The Gâteau○○○ pudding I received last time was also superb~”

It’s really delicious~ Even though I could eat it whenever I wanted if this was over in my world..... I can only say that it’s unfortunate.

“That was certainly delicious too. One delicious thing after another come from Japan, so I have to be careful not to overeat.”

“That sounds so nice~ Over at my place, such development doesn’t happen that often~ I’m envious~”

“Japan is nationally prominent at producing various things after all. But, when it comes to the number of ingredients, there should be much more at your place. Fumu. He, who went over there. I don’t know his skills nor taste, but he’s Japanese. Isn’t there a possibility that he could contribute over there?”

“Oh my? That’s certainly true. I would be happy if that were the case~”

Because Amaterasu-sama said that Japanese are a nation that pursues delicious things, won't Earth's dishes be reproduced on Aetherdia thanks to him?

My, oh my, that's serious! Once I return, let's inquire about his skill a little. Right, in case he doesn't have a cooking skill, let's give him one! Like that, he could reproduce at least some simple dishes, right? Oh my, I somehow got really excited~

◇ ◇ ◇

""Welcome back.""

"Luce, I'm home~ Oh my, Fonse came too."

Luce and the head retainer of Darkness, Fonse welcomed me.

"Yes. So, Marianora-sama. How did it go?"

"Everything's fine~ I've got the permission."

"That's good news."

Luce and Fonse showed relief.

Well, if a god from over there got angry, we wouldn't know what could happen after all.

"Right, right. Here, take this to Sylphreel's place and have him forward it to that person please."

"This is?"

"Japanese food. Amaterasu-sama took into consideration that he would be suddenly separated from his birthplace, so she prepared various things."

"Is that so? I will immediately deliver it."

"Ah, please tell Sylphreel to come over later."

"Yes."

After that, although I didn't summon Sylphreel to scold him, he came over while making a pathetic expression.

Seriously~ what a hopeless child. If you have the time to be worrying about, watch over Takumi-san's situation properly. Even if we entrusted those children to Takumi-san, we still can't be lax, right?

"By the way, Sylphreel. Do you know whether Takumi-san has a cooking skill?"

"Cooking, is it? He has it. He should be quite skilled at that, you know?"

"Oh my, really?"

That's a good news~ I look forwards to the future~♪

## **Idle Talk 10**

Marianora's Observation Records 2

My grandchildren——Windell's children have been entrusted to Takumi-san by Sylphreel.

After that happened, the children become lively beyond recognition. Their malnourished bodies have considerably improved and their taciturn expression gradually became childish.

Sylphreel's baton is moving in a good direction, isn't it?

And, above all——

"They look happy, don't they?"

"Oh my, does it look like that to you?"

As Luce said, the children look very happy.

"Yes. I feel that Takumi-dono really loves those children."

"You think so too~"

In spite of pushing our circumstances on Takumi-san, he's treating the children very preciously. They look like real siblings.

Even though it would be normal to be little perfunctory about it, I don't see a bit of it.

All I see is that he wholeheartedly loves them.

The possibility of their power running wild has not changed, but it's obvious that I would rather see my grandchildren being happy.

We have been blessed with a really good person~ I can feel at peace.

◇ ◇ ◇

Oh my, sweet buns have finally arrived to Aetherdia!

Ah, Cream bread is there too!

I'm really glad that Takumi-san is skilled at cooking!

Oh my! He made Anpan as well!

What should I do~ Having Anko means that there's a possibility of wagashi being made~ Manjuu, Dorayaki, Youkan..... can I expect those?

I'm looking forward to it~ Takumi-san, please do your best!

My, my! It's jelly this time. The things called sweets have been finally born on my world as well.

It's sweets, sweets! What a wonderfully sounding word~

I wonder why there are only dry and crumbling cookies in my world? Don't be satisfied with just that, I would like if you had more spirit~

Compared to that, Takumi-san is really amazing~ to use slimes as ingredients~ his creative power is very rich~ how wonderful~

Now, now! Don't be reserved and quickly spread that throughout my world, okay? If it doesn't become established in the world, I won't be able to eat!

"Ah~....."

"Marianora-sama, what's the matter!?"

"My jelly has....."

Fruit jelly, milk jelly, black tea jelly..... the jelly made in large amount has..... all of those got stored in Takumi-san's Infinite Storage.

At this point of time, Takumi-san had a chance to popularize the Cream bread and he's currently in the middle of being rolled up in something troublesome. He can't show off the newly made jelly in that.....

I understand Takumi-san's thoughts, however~~~ with great troubles! To not be able to eat sweets that have appeared in my world with great troubles..... no way~

Oh well~ since it came to this, we have no choice but to make it ourselves!

"Say, Luce. The jelly Takumi-san made, won't you try making the same thing?"

"Eh?"

"I mean~ I can't wait until it spreads throughout the world~"

"No..... however, making things is in Marianora-sama's area....."

Oh my, that was the case, wasn't it~ I'm the God of Creation after all.

"Then, I shall do my best after a long time."

"Eh! Ehh!? Y, you are going to make it!?"

"Oh my, didn't Luce say to make it myself~"

"W, wait a moment please ◐!!"

"What~? Luce, what's the matter? Why are you raising your voice like that?"

"If Marianora-sama's makes poor use of your powers, the redundant power will erupt volcanos, raise tsunamis, split the ground, and incur tornados~ Somehow! Somehow, please wait~~~"

My, my, I was stopped by the crying Luce~

My power is fit to create continents, spread oceans, and make large things. That's why, when creating little things, the leftover power would spill out no matter what, won't it~

That would just a slight~ly affect the surface~ But, if I properly pay attention, it would have only little effects, so I think it would be all right in the end~

Since Luce is pleading so much, I will endure for a little longer.....

◇ ◇ ◇

Oh my? My, oh my, It appears that the children are learning magic.

If they learn to control their magical power, the possibility of running wild will greatly decrease.

Yeah, yeah. I'm glad~ I can set aside my worries for the continent to sink under heavy floods for the time being~? Ah~ but, but~ the possibility of drought still remains?

N~ they are stable now, so I think it should be alright though~ well, I can't be negligent, but it's not necessary to be vigilant as before~

Nevertheless..... fufufu~ the children look very happy, don't they~ Moreover, they completely look like younger siblings~ how pleasant~

Ah, that's right!

"Say, Luce. Is there currently someone among retainers in child rearing and education~?"

"No, there isn't. We have a little to no relation to that area after all. Someone suitable hasn't appeared yet."

"What about Takumi-san? Doesn't his affinity seem very appealing?"

"Takumi-dono, is it.....? He certainly has the affinity, but he's Sylphreel-sama's retainer, you know?"

"Oh my. But, he's also a person with my blessing~"

I think that it's a very good idea~ Yeah, I think I should do it. Let's entrust it to Takumi-san right away.....

—Yup, and done!

"Ma, Marianora-sama!?"

"Fufufu~ I entrusted Nurture and Education to him. Tehe☆"

"W, we have to let Sylphreel-sama know~~~"

Luce went to Sylphreel's place in a hurry.

I wonder what reaction will Sylphreel and Takumi-san have~? I'm looking forward to it a bit~

◇ ◇ ◇

“Marianora-sama.”

“Oh my, isn’t that Salamanteel? What’s the matter today?”

One of my children, the Fire God Salamanteel visited me.

“Marianora-sama knows of Syl’s retainer who reincarnated here from a different world, right?”

I wondered what it was, is it about Takumi-san?

“Of course~ What about him?”

“That fellow’s contributions related to cooking are incredible, so I thought about giving him a reward, you see.”

“That’s right~ Takumi-san is spreading various dishes, isn’t he~ Isn’t that good~?”

“Marianora-sama is well-informed.”

“That’s because he’s a person I placed my expectations on~”

Jam buns, dried fruit, and nut bread are spreading relatively quickly, and most recently, the Cream bread has been getting popular~

It can’t be helped that the spreading is slow because of the world’s limited goods~ but still, it’s steadily spreading, so I have no complaints~

Anpan will soon follow.

Jelly hasn’t come to light yet, so it unfortunately still has a way to go. I’m happy that French Toast is spreading though~ well, that’s about it.

Because it seems that Takumi-san is also doing various dishes on the side, I’m in approval of Salamanteel’s wish to reward him~

“Heeh~ is that so~ Syl, that fellow- he told me that he would talk about it with the retainer next time he spoke with him and told me to wait until then.”

“Fufu, I understand what Sylphreel wanted to say~ Takumi-san would get shocked if gifts suddenly appeared in front of him~”

“I understand that too, but I would like to send it immediately after making contact. That’s why I came wondering if Marianora-sama could give me a word the moment the communication comes~”

Fufufu. It’s rare for Salamanteel to ask for a favor, but the contents are adorable, aren’t they~

“Is that no good?”

“I don’t mind that much~ It’s Salamanteel’s request after all~ I will ask Sylphreel about his retainer later.”

“Thank you, Marianora-sama.”

Territory and possessions are irrelevant to Takumi-san, so he's always active~ What a truly reliable existence~

Would it be better for me to prepare a reward as well? Let's think about it a little.

## Chapter 74

Ordered Goods

“Hello~”

“Ou, it's Niichan, huh. I was waiting for you.”

Today, we are visiting the blacksmith which we visited on the day we arrived in Bailey.

It's in order to receive the accessories made from Kaiser's scales and Evil Viper's skin equipment I have requested.

When we enter the store, Boss was repairing weapons lined up on the shelf. Even though there seem to be other people to tend the store, he also has a disciple like Rudius-san, and yet Boss is performing the actions with a good feeling as if learned by heart.

“Oy, Rudi. Niichan has come~ Quickly bring your work of art over~!”

“W, wait a moment please~!!”

In order to bring the items we have ordered, Boss immediately called Rudius-san who inside. Rudius-san's voice returned from a distance.

“Sorry about that. It seems that the fellow worked to the very last moment.”

“I'm looking forward to it.”

Rudius-san was apparently working to the very last moment.

Boss said so exhaustedly, but I'm looking forward to it if he's so concerned about it.

“Then, I will hand you over this first.”

Saying that, Boss pointed at the gloves, breastplate, and gauntlet from Evil Viper skin lined at the counter. In addition, a gauntlet for Allen made from a different material.

I pick up the articles one by one and confirm their completion.

“Thank you very much. All of them have been made nicely.”

"That's excellent to hear. Evil Viper's skin is really good material. I've been able to get a good experience too. Thank you."

When I thank for the various articles, Boss gave me his impressions about Evil Viper's skin in return.

This and that about tanning, manufacturing progress..... he talked a lot. I didn't understand over half of that, but I couldn't find the timing to stop him, so I decided to listen to Boss' impressions for a while.

"So, Niichan. Did you not bring the hawk you are keeping?"

"..... Speaking of being here, then he is."

Boss was satisfied after talking about the manufacturing, but his next topic was about the hawk. Namely, it's about Bolt.

"N? Is he outside? Since you have the chance, how about trying it?"

"..... Umm, is it fine inside the store?"

"I don't mind. Since it's a hawk Niichan is keeping, I feel like it will be something incredible. Please, try it out by all means."

Yesterday, the existence of my contracted beasts came to light, so even if I'm unwilling..... isn't it fine?

"In that case.....—Bolt."

Boss has given me his permission, so I put the gauntlet on my arm and called Bolt at once.

"Piiii~"

"Wwha!?"

When Bolt flew out of my shadow, Boss raised his voice in surprise. It's startling after all~

Speaking of Bolt, he nimbly turned around in the narrow space of the store and lightly landed on top of my arm.

Un, the gauntlet feels nice. With this, Bolt will be able to land on my arm even if I'm not wearing a coat.

"Oy, oy, oy! Niichan, isn't that a Thunderhawk!"

"Yes, that's right."

"Pyuru."

"..... Niichan is full of surprises. I really didn't think that a Thunderhawk would come out. Haa~ to think there would be a day I would be able to get so close to a Thunderhawk....."

It appears that Boss has expected that I would bring a monster instead of an ordinary hawk, but as I thought, he didn't expect that I would bring the pinnacle of the hawk class monsters.

Because he was already plentifully startled by the materials I have brought—Leviathan's scale, Evil Viper's skin, Mithril Spider's thread, he nodded in consent just a little while after being surprised by Bolt. Far from that, he began observing Bolt.

"Onii~chan! Allen too~"

"Oh, right. Allen wants to try it too?"

"Yea!"

After I move Bolt from my arm to my shoulder, I place a gauntlet on Allen's arm he presented.

"Bolt~ come~"

"Piii."

When Allen called Bolt, Bolt moved from my shoulder to Allen's arm.

When Bolt landed on the arm of the small Allen, Bolt looked truly big~

"Ohh~! Bolt, good child~"

"Piii."

Allen started patting Bolt who landed on top of his arm.

"Elena too~ Bolt, good child~"

"Piii."

Elena got closer to Allen and Bolt too and started patting Bolt.

While the calm and gentle mood just started flowing, Rudius-san came out from the depths of the store.

"Thank you for waiti..... wha!! Why is a Thunderhawk in here!?"

He noticed Bolt before anything else.

"Niichan is keeping that one."

"Eh! Ehh!?"

"Rather than that Rudi, you are late. Will you not promptly show the articles!"

"Y, yesss, I'm sorry. These are the requested articles."

Pestered by Boss, Rudius-san swallowed his surprise and lined up three pendants on top of the counter.

The first one is a diamond-shaped fragment of the scale with detailed patterns engraved on the framework. It's a simple design with a few decorations.

The second one is a drop shaped fragment of the scale intertwined with a vine and small flower motifs. This one is surely Elena's.

The third one is a circle shaped fragment with a snake..... no, a water dragon's motif? Its lengthy body is looped, it's the design where the dragon holds its tail in its mouth.

"Heeh~ All of them look nice, don't they?"

""Ohh~""

I think all of them are wonderful. Allen and Elena were sure to peek at the counter and raised their voices in admiration.

I'm satisfied overall, but there's one thing on my mind. There's a small, colorless gem used in what I believe is Elena's pendant, but it feels as if it were loose. That's probably because it's a glass bead.

"The gem used for this flower is glass, isn't it?"

"Ah~..... you could tell after all....."

"Why did you not use a jewel instead?"

"..... Because the price would rise if a jewel was used, I hesitated to use it because of my own selfishness. Besides, this is the young lady's so..... umm, you see....."

"Hey, Rudi! Will you spit it out clearly!!"

"Whoa! Y, yes! I thought that there are no jewels suitable for children!! I'm sorry~!!"

It appears he understood that it's for a child, so he hesitated to use a jewel.

"Can you replace it?"

"Yes, I can do that immediately."

I understand Rudius-san's opinion on jewels and children, but we can't let it be in this loose state.

I would like to replace it if I can. Something expensive is a bit..... but, it will lose to the water dragon.....

"About that jewel, what do you want to use? There are not many kinds around the workshop, but....."

"Let's see..... what does Elena want to do?"

"N~?"

"I'd like to exchange this glass, what color do you like?"

“Umm, you see..... ah, Elena likes pearls~!”

“Oh?”

Since it's for Elena anyway, I asked for her favorite color, but she didn't answer me with color, but a type of jewel. That answer was slightly unexpected!

But, as for a pearl, I think it will compliment the design's mood very well. I do have pearls the size of rice grain with suitable color at me too.

“Pearl, is it? I think pearls would be oversized, however..... in the first place, pearls are expensive even among other jewels, you know?”

I see. Pearls are high class even among other jewels, huh. I didn't know that.

“I thought of using this.”

First of all, I retrieved several pearls the size of a rice grain from the Infinite Storage.

The colors are white, pink and yellow, that's about it?

“Eh! Ehh!? What the hell is this~!!”

“Umu~..... these are~ pearls, aren't they? It's my first time seeing such small ones. Moreover, so many in different colors.....”

“Eh!? These are pearls!? Seriously!?”

“Niichan is seriously..... it's weird to take out these amazing things one after another, okay!”

No I mean, I would like to use what I have at me, you know~ If there's an opportunity to use it and I won't assertively use it then, it will go straight to the storage.

“I think the size should be fine, but what do you think?”

“Y, yes. It should be fine if it's like this.”

“Then, Elena. Which color do you like?”

“Elena likes this~”

Rudius-san said that the size is fine after taking a look at the pearls, so when I let Elena choose the color, she chose a pink pearl.

“Ah, yes, this is it then? In that case, I will attach it at once. I will stick through the string too, so would it be alright to take measures for the length?”

He braided the Mithril Spider's thread and it became like a plaited cord.

“The children are already wearing pendants, but what would you like to do? Let them wear two?”

“Eh!? Ah.....”

I forgot that Allen and Elena are already wearing pendants with sealed magic effects.

Ah~ wearing any more than this will be obstructive~

“N~..... ah, right! Could I ask you to shorten the strings?”

“What do you want to do?”

“I thought of attaching them to their bags as decorations.”

If it's fastened next to their magic bags similarly to a keychain, it won't get in their way.

The plan was to hang it from their necks and hide it under their clothes, so there won't be a problem if it's hidden by the hem of their shirts.

“I see. I understand. Umm, which one does the boy prefer?”

“Ah, that's right. Allen, this or this, which one do you like better?”

Which reminds me, Elena has already decided, but I haven't asked what Allen which likes better.

I immediately presented the two pendants to Allen and let him choose which one he likes more.

“N, you see~ Kaiza~”

Allen chose the one with the water dragon design.

Nevertheless..... Kaiser, huh. As Allen said, the water dragon's motif looks just like Kaiser. Leviathan's appearances were unexpectedly transmitted accurately.

“Kaiza~?”

“Ah..... it's the name of a water dragon from a picture book.”

“Ah, is that so? This one it is then.”

I was able to deceive him well if I say so myself, all is good.

Rudius-san went immediately to work, but he finished without taking too much time. We have received the ordered goods, all that's left was to pay, but——

I wanted to pay with the powder from water dragon's scales and pay the rest with money as planned at first, Boss and Rudius-san have stopped me.

They requested me to sell them not only the powder, but also the scraps from the Evil Viper's skin and the remains of the Mithril Spider thread's plaited cord instead. Not the unused skin and thread from cutting, but the remnants from the manufacturing process. Isn't that garbage..... is what I thought, but the two made

me silent with their serious eyes. Even if it has no use to me, it's enough material to use for them.

This is that, isn't it? The feeling I had when I saw the garbage dump site of the mermaids. Our positions have reversed though.

However, as I thought, I was hesitant to "sell" that to them, so I decided to give it to them. As thanks for doing a good job!

Also, because Bolt has started grooming before I noticed, they appealed to let them have a feather that fell off Bolt by all means. This, as expected, wasn't possible to gift them, so I decided to sell it.

As a result, I made a considerable amount of money instead.

I received the goods I have ordered and got money..... Iya~ how strange~

## Chapter 75

### Repurchase

We who left the blacksmith searched for a furniture store with the thoughts of buying a bed and a table that would be used as kitchen table next. However, on the way, I noticed that this world doesn't have a store that displays and sells furniture. At most, you can order to have it manufactured.

When we entered a workshop and I asked about the manufacturing, they seemed to be free at the moment, so they could make it in five days.

In that case, I decided to order it while we are in the town.

I intended to let them use the Gaya trees, but manufacturing good materials would take more time, so I gave up. Let's use another opportunity to use Gaya trees for furniture.

Then, we walked around the store for a while buying small things such as tableware.

After shopping and returning to the Risner mansion, we were guided by Joshua-san to Cedric-san's office while having an unrelated discussion.

Rather Joshua-san, if you have something to discuss, I wouldn't plan on escaping even if you didn't have that 'I won't let you escape' aura around you~

"Cedric-san, we have returned. I heard from Joshua-san that you have something to discuss, but....."

"Ah, Takumi-san, welcome home. The reward for the bandit subjugation has been processed, so I thought of giving it to you."

A reward for the bandit subjugation.....?

I see. Even if you didn't receive the bandit subjugation request, those who subjugate them receive the reward?

"This is the reward for the subjugation of the 'Red Cat Group'. Also, there were those with bounties on their heads among the bandits, so it has been decided to sell off all of the caught bandits as slaves. This is the payment from that."

Moreover, because the bandits were caught without being killed, they have been sold as slaves. The payment from that was prepared too.

"Also, Takumi-san. You have collected the belongings of the bandits from the hideout, right?"

"Yes, I did collect them. Huh? Should I return them?"

"No, no, that's not it. All of that is already Takumi-san's. It's just that I would like to confirm whether a silver-framed painting is among it."

"A silver-framed painting? Wait a moment please. Umm.....—"

I immediately spread out the item list and search for the painting.

"Ah, there it is. I think this is probably it, but....."

I take out the corresponding item from the Infinite Storage and place it on top of the table.

Hey, doesn't this feel suspicious! Moreover, it's not abstract, it feels awfully realistic.....

Ah, hey there! Allen, Elena, don't stare at it!

I immediately covered the children's eyes.

""Uniyu~?""

"Stay like this for a bit."

""Hm? Got it~""

Allen and Elena found it strange that I abruptly covered their eyes, but they obediently abide when I told them to stay like that for a moment. It helps that they are obedient children~

"Yeah, this is it without a doubt. Takumi-san, there's a person who would like to repurchase it, would that be fine with you?"

I don't know whether it was stolen, but there's someone who likes this painting to the extent of wanting to repurchase it?

How curious~ is what I thought, but honestly, I would be delighted if someone took it from me.

"Yes, I don't mind. It's just..... how do I negotiate this type of thing?"

"I don't mind if you leave it to me. Although I say that, I think of paying a fair amount of money to a specialist."

"That's no problem. Please take care of it."

The details around here will be surely all right if I leave it to Cedric-san.

I confirmed that Cedric-san let Joshua-san carry the painting out and I released my hands which were covering Allen's and Elena's eyes.

""Nniyu?""

The two who regained vision looked around restlessly.

"Huh~?"

"Not here~?"

It appears they are searching for the painting that was in front of them before their eyes were blocked.

""No picture~?""

"Cedric-san told me 'Gimme', so I gave him the picture."

"Hey! Takumi-san, that way of talking!"

Cedric-san who always has a calm atmosphere around me panicked at my words.

""Ohh~""

I made it easy for the children to understand that Cedric-san wanted the painting~ It was definitely not on purpose!

Moreover, because Allen and Elena were looking at Cedric-san while giving voices of admiration, Cedric-san got intriguingly flustered.

"Fu. ..... Kukuku~ ..... I, it's okay, the two don't understand well."

""Uniyu?""

It was my first time seeing Cedric-san so flustered~~~

Allen and Elena looked at Cedric-san and me in turns and tilted their heads in puzzlement.

"Takumi-san, that was cruel..... haah..... excuse me, but Takumi-san. Do you perhaps have a pair of rings as well? They have names on the inside, the larger one says Robert. The smaller one has Liz on it."

Cedric-san took a deep breath and spoke about next repurchase.

Next is a couple's ring, huh. Umm.....

"Ah, there it is. I think this should be it."

"Is that so? About these rings....."

When I retrieve the rings from the Infinite Storage and put them on top of the table, Cedric-san looked like he had difficulty speaking.

"Umm?"

"Wait just a moment please."

Cedric-san went to Joshua-san who stood outside and Joshua-san immediately brought a woman inside.

"I'm glad....."

When the woman entered the room and looked at the rings on the table, she took them in her hands and tightly hugged them close.

"..... Err?"

I remember her. She was caught by the bandits, she was one of the victims locked in the prison.

Is that ring a memento by any chance!?

Thinking such, I looked at Cedric-san and he meekly nodded. It looks I was right.

"I can't pay immediately, but I will definitely pay, so please let me take this."

"No, no, no! I'm fine. I will return it to you."

Impossible! It's impossible for me to ask for money for articles left by the deceased!

"Eh, umm..... is that really all right with you....."

"It's something very important to you, isn't it? I don't mind, so please take it with you."

"T, thank you very much!"

The woman said many words of thanks and left the room with a silent bow and the rings hugging close to her.

"A moment, Cedric-sa~n. That was a memento wasn't it?"

"Yes, that's correct."

"No need to guess, there are more of them, aren't there? Are there perhaps those who gave up because they don't have money to repurchase the memento! I will return that to those people as well! Cedric-san, that was cruel. If you knew I would return it to them, you should tell me normally, right!?"

"Even if I knew, I can't deal with it like that without your permission~"

"Guh."

Cedric-san is certainly acting like the contact person of the repurchase, but it's not like he can state the conditions on his own.....

“Well, I thought Takumi-san would say so and made a list.”

As expected! Able Feudal Lord’s work is fast! I apologize for laughing a while ago!

I immediately receive the list from Cedric-san, compare with the items in the Infinite Storage, and retrieve various articles.

Maybe because it was before the bandits could sell it off, nearly all items were in my Infinite Storage. Still, I can’t say all of them were.

“Then, I will hand the items to their owners.”

“I will leave it to you. So, what is going to happen to those girls from now on?”

“Nearly all of those women and children were traveling, so their families that accompanied became victims. The children with no guardians will be transferred to the orphanage and the women will be given minimum aid to live in the town.”

“Is that so.....”

As I thought, their lives will become difficult from now on, won’t they.....

“..... Cedric-san, will that painting from a little while ago bring considerable amount?”

“Yeah, the frame itself is considerably good, so I think it should yield quite a lot of money.”

“In that case, please invest that money in aid of the victims.”

I have decided to let Cedric-san handle the money from the repurchase of the painting and add it to the funds of the aid for the victims. Like this, their livelihood will be much better.

The repurchase money would be just a casual income, so it won’t hurt my pockets even if I contribute all of it.

Takumi-san is really..... thank you very much. You have my gratitude.”

## **Chapter 76**

### Dungeon of Ripples – Reopening

As we had quite a lot of rest, we arrived at the beach near a certain dungeon, thinking to reopen the capture of the “Dungeon of Ripples” we have encountered on the way.

In spite of being early in the morning, many of adventurers have already gathered at the nearby beach.

These adventurers are interested in the newly discovered dungeon and probably came to capture it.

This dungeon was untouched until now. Because the probability of discovering the treasure chests and hidden rooms in such dungeon is high, it's a target of getting rich quick.

Many people are looking at the entrance and investigating the 50 meters long waterway.

"Excuse me. Could you please let us pass?"

"Oh, sorry——Ah!"

I called out to an adventurer dressed in black garments who was looking at the entrance in order to enter the waterway.

Then, he raised his voice in surprise after turning around while apologizing.

He seems familiar.

"Err, if I'm not mistaken..... Takumi!"

"Yeah, that's right. It's been a while. Umm....."

"This reminds me that I haven't introduced myself. I'm Black Twin Sword leader, Gray."

"Hello, I'm Takumi. These children are Allen and Elena."

Right, it was a person from the adventurer party Black Twin Sword who went together with us to the Gaya Forest.

By the way, he's a handsome blonde guy.

He's currently not wearing much equipment in order to swim in the sea, but if I remember correctly, Gray-san should be using a Japanese-like sword. I wonder if it's stored in his magic bag?

Well~ he will be swimming from now on so sword and armor would only hold him back. Because I don't really have anything attached to me, I didn't notice that before.

"It's been a while. Thank you for the help in Shirin."

"Don't worry about it, are your injuries alright now?"

"I immediately got treated by the Knights Order after returning to the town. It, fortunately, wasn't anything serious. I was able to return to my normal life immediately."

They have been assaulted and injured by the Bloody Wolves during the expedition, but it seems they are alright now.

And they apparently quickly recovered and took on an escort request, left Shirin and arrived at Bailey. They arrived at Bailey just a few days ago.

As I thought, it would take at least that long with normal means of transport~

We have left Shirin after them and arrived at Bailey earlier. I can feel Joule's and Feat's worth~

"If I remember correctly, you should have five members, right? What happened to the others?"

I can see only two people including Gray-san. If their members didn't change since the expedition, they are short of three people.

"The three are currently going in."

"Ah, is that so?"

"Since you are here, Takumi is going to the dungeon too?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"You are babysitting as always, huh~ Well, it's an Intermediate level dungeon, so it's safer than Gaya Forest, right~"

Because Gray-san knows of me taking children to the Gaya Forest, he casually accepted that I'm taking the children with me.

"We have returned~..... huh, ehhhh!?"

A brown-haired youth about the same age as me came out from the sea and pointed towards us while shouting.

He's one of the Black Twin Sword members too if I recall correctly.

"Randy, that was rude of you."

"Ah, yes. I'm sorry. But, why are you here!?"

"We are also capturing the dungeon."

"Seriously!? With the children again!?"

Randy-kun..... calling him like that feels more fitting~

Soon after staring at the children, the youth called Randy suddenly extended his hands towards Allen's and Elena's heads.

However, the two escaped and hid from Randy's hands behind me.

"Ah, they ran away!"

"Randy..... what are you doing all of sudden....."

"No, I just unconsciously? Don't you feel like patting and poking the twins?"

"It's not like I don't understand, but..... however, it's not like children would easily let their guards down before a stranger, right?"

It appears he wanted to pat Allen's and Elena's heads. Thus making Allen and Elena run away.

"No, but I'm not a stern-looking man like Bax-san~ so I thought I might be okay~"

Bax-san is one of Black Twin Swords members who stayed behind with Gray-san, he has dark brown hair and he looks like a tough man no matter how you look at him. And well..... his face looks a bit aggressive. I don't know whether he's taciturn, but he didn't say a single word until now.

Also..... there should be a man with a large shield if I'm not mistaken.

"..... They will catch stupidity from you, so don't touch them."

"Bax-san, that was cruel~"

"..... Your fault."

Ah, Bax-san spoke up for the first time.

Hahaha~ This party seems somewhat fun.

"Sorry about that."

"No, no."

Gray-san looked sincerely apologetic.

"We are having a lot of fun, but won't you go to the dungeon now? The two who went along will be worried if you delay for too long."

It's not like we can't catch up later, but have been floating at the sea's surface forever now.

"O, ou. That's right."

"Let's go Bax, Randy. Give me the Mermaid's Breath."

"Roger."

"Mermaid's Breath?"

"N? Does Takumi not know about Mermaid's Breath?"

"Yeah, is it a magic tool?"

"This is it."

Because Randy let me take a look at the magic tool, I immediately used Appraisal on it.

□□□□

Mermaid's Breath

A tool with built-in wind magic stone that generates air for a certain period of time.  
The length of the usable time depends on the magic stone used.

□□□□□

“I don’t know the detailed structure, but it apparently creates air by using a wind magic stone.”

Yeah, this is the magic tool Cedric-san was talking about.

This magic tool is apparently used by holding it in the mouth. Is it sort of an oxygen tank?

“The tools with lowest grade wind stones can be used only for several minutes and there’s a problem of durability, but they are relatively easy to get. This is also thanks to the Feudal Lord who prepared it for the mass production immediately after the dungeon was discovered.”

Oh! As expected of Cedric-san! Isn’t he doing a good job~

“Although I say that, it’s not like everyone can get their hands on the magic tools, so the people will be divided by this waterway!”

Well, although it is mass produced, it would cost something since it’s a magic tool.

Gray-san and others probably have only three magic tools. First, three people went ahead, one returned with the magic tools and the members who remained will use them again.

“If you didn’t know about this, how are you intend to go down, Takumi? You naturally know that it’s necessary to go through a long waterway to reach the dungeon, right?”

“Of course. We have a different magic tool.”

“No way!! Do you perhaps have Mermaid Bracelets, Takumi?”

“Yeah, well.”

Speaking of tools that assist breathing underwater, it’s the Mermaid Bracelet. That’s why Gray-san and others immediately named the magic tools we have.

They would see that we didn’t get wet and the Mermaid Bracelets would get exposed anyhow, so I gave them a positive answer.

There’s a way of hiding magic tools in the possession and there are other ways to swim as explained in the guild, but there’s no need to try deceiving them that much.

“That’s amazing. There’s certainly no need for this if you have the mermaid bracelets!”

“That’s right. Then, please go ahead.”

"Ou, sorry about that. We will go ahead."

"Yes. —Then, shall we go too?"

""Yea.""

We let Gray-san and others go first, we later follow after them and swam through the waterway.

When we finish swimming through the waterway, I elevate Allen and Elena out of the water first, then I crawl out just like the last time.

"Uoh~ incredible~! You are completely dry!"

Randy who arrived earlier said in admiration when we got out of the water. It appears he noticed that we didn't get wet a single bit.

"Uoh~!"

Randy who was soaking wet suddenly started chasing Allen and Elena.

""Ukya~""

Allen and Elena raised their voices while escaping from Randy.

Because their tone wasn't that of being afraid or disliking it, but rather an amused one, I decided to watch over them first.

"Wait, wait—Ouch!"

But, it didn't continue for long.

"Bax-sa~n, what are you doing~"

"..... Quit it."

When he crossed in front of Bax-san, Bax-san dropped his fist on Randy's head.

"Welcome back~"

""I'm back~""

Allen and Elena used the chance and rushed straight into my embrace.

"Takumi, I'm truly sorry for our idiot!"

Gray-san sincerely apologized for Randy-kun's actions once again.

Even though you don't have to mind it that much?

"No, no. They seemed to be having fun, so it's fine. Right?"

""Yea! Was fun~""

"As you can see—It's just....."

"N?"

"It will be serious if you make a mistake, so you have to be careful..... I mean, if you overdo it, you know, they will counterattack....."

If you carry the joke too far, it's possible that you will end up like the adventurer who picked up a fight with us in Shirin.....

Randy's face turned ghastly pale at my remark.

"..... They will kick me flying like the Bloody Wolf.....?"

"Randy..... aren't you glad you survived....."

"..... I sure am."

It seems he recalled the time in Gaya Forest when Allen and Elena kicked a Bloody Wolf flying.

No, no, they certainly wouldn't counterattack with that much power..... probably.

Un, they would surely hold back.

..... Now that I think of it, wasn't that adventurer who picked a fight with us in Shirin in danger? They would have landed a full power ax kick on his head because I didn't stop them after all.....

No, it's not like they disliked it this time, so everything was alright, wasn't it..... probably.

## Chapter 77

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 4

"Rather than that, wouldn't it be better to get dry quickly?"

"Y, yeah."

When I said so, Gray-san and others took off their coats and started wringing their wet clothes.

"..... Can't you dry it with magic?"

It's possible with the life magic, Dry. There should be relatively many people who use life magic, but they aren't using it.

"We don't have anyone who can use that kind of magic."

"That's right, isn't it~"

I see, they can't use it. Speaking of drying water, in addition to life magic, wouldn't fire magic or wind magic be usable too? Not all attributes are available in their party it seems~

I don't want to pretend not to see, though~

“Stay still please —Dry.”

“N? — Oh! Thanks.”

“..... I’m thankful.”

“Amazing~! It was instant!”

It doesn’t use that much magical power, so I dried Gray-san and the others.

Because I had a feeling that they would take off even their pants and underwear in order to wring the water out..... Allen might be okay, but I wouldn’t want to show that scene to Elena.

“It has been a while. Oh, I’m Aaron. I thought Gray and others were late, it appears they were talking with you. Thanks for the help in the Gaya Forest.”

“I’m Virgil! I was sure that Randy did something again.”

“Yeah, I thought so too.”

“Aaron-san, Virgil-san too, how rude~.....”

Then, two men who watched from the side approached us.

They are the members of the Black Twin Sword who came to the dungeon’s entrance earlier. The blonde one is Aaron and the black-haired one is Virgil.

“Long time no see. I’m Takumi. Sorry about that, they were late because of me.”

“Don’t mind it. They weren’t that late.”

Aaron-san and Virgil-san already wiped the water from their equipment, but their hair was still wet, so I used Dry on the two as well.

“Oh, thanks.”

“That helps. So, it might be boorish asking since you are here, but are you here to capture the dungeon, Takumi? You didn’t come just for the visit, right?”

“Yeah, capturing the dungeon is our objective.”

A visit is that thing, right? Where you take a step into the dungeon which will leave a record in your guild card and that’s all you want.

Because the adventurer guild cards also indicate the dungeon records, non-combatants visit various dungeons and enter them without capturing it.

Well, all the people would see is several “Dungeon of “●●” X●● floors” lined up, but some people use it to brag.

There also seem to be requests for “escort to a dungeon” in the Adventurer’s Guild.-

However, entering a dungeon without trying to capture it, I don’t understand that.

“That’s right~ Dungeons are to be captured, right~”

We are adventurers. We have to adventure after all!

"That being the case~ all of us are gathered, shall we go?"

"Let's go. Takumi, do you guys want to go with us?"

They wanted to embark on the dungeon capture at once, but Aaron-san invited us to go together. The other members are also nodding in agreement, but——

"Erm..... I'm sorry, but we go that way."

I said so while pointing at the transfer device.

Although capturing the dungeon together would be fun, we are unfortunately starting on the eleventh floor.

""""""Eh!?""""""

Gray-san and others raised their voices in surprise.

Far from that, the other adventurers at the hall raised their voices too.

Is it just a little bit over one week since reporting the discovery of a new dungeon to the Adventurer's Guild?

I don't know how long it is since the official announcement, but it has been about three days since the official investigation?

Because they are surprised by the use of transfer device this much, it probably means that there hasn't been anyone who finished capturing the first ten floors yet. But, it's just a matter of time and there will surely appear those who will capture the tenth floor in a few days.

"Ah! I heard that the discoverer of the dungeon was taking care of children."

"Now that you mention it!"

"Then, he's that guy!"

"Since he's using a transfer device, it means that he reached at least the tenth floor, right?"

"Far from being solo, are you saying he reached the tenth floor while accompanied by a hindrance? This isn't a low-grade, but intermediate dungeon, you know? That's impossible."

I hear various things from the surroundings.

As I thought, rumors spread that we are the discoverers. There was such ruckus about it that time, so it can't really be helped~

"Eh!? Takumi discovered the dungeon!?"

"Seriously!?"

"Are you serious!?"

“..... Yeah, well.”

It appears that Gray-san and others didn't know. However——

“I'm surprised, but it's a believable story since it concerns Takumi.”

“”“I hear that.”””

“Right.”

They were in agreement for some reason.

Being considerate, Gray-san and others took their leave without asking further questions.

We made a promise to have a meal together if we meet in town next time. We went to the transfer device.

“Then, Allen, Elena. Touch the crystal.”

“”“Ye~s.”””

◇ ◇ ◇

We, who transferred straight to the tenth floor descended on the eleventh floor.

The eleventh floor was the same as the first ten floors, but the waterway in the center disappeared and the entire floor was submerged instead.

The volume of water isn't that much as the water reaches only up to my ankles, but it appears that we will have to walk through water all the way.

“Allen, Elena, are you alright?”

“”“Is fine~”””

The two were stepping on and splashing the water.

This depth is not a problem even for the height of the children, but I have to think some countermeasures in case the water gets even deeper.

“Tell me immediately if you get tired, okay?”

“”“Ye~s.”””

I thought that moving through the water would have a far bigger burden on them than on a normal surface, so after firmly instructing the two, I decided to continue advancing.

“”“Not coming, huh~”””

“Really.....”

While walking in high spirits, we haven't encountered a single monster. Just some traps would get occasionally set off.

Advancing while avoiding the traps further——

""Ah.””

Allen and Elena suddenly raised their voices and begun running accompanied by the sounds of splashing water.

When I chased after them in a hurry, there were about five Water Lizards in their destination.

””Tooh~!””

””Sha 𠮶𠮶””

Allen and Elena who vigorously ran jumped up with the momentum and landed at the two Water Lizards who were crawling on the floor.

””Water Needle.””

Following that, they formed needles from the water spreading on the ground and brought down the remaining Water Lizards.

The dropped items of the skin and tusks were floating in the water.

””Defeated~!””

Allen and Elena picked up the dropped items and cheerfully ran up to me.

””Thank you for your hard work~ But, is this the path you wanted to go on?””

””Uniyu?””

””You turned left on the way, remember?””

The two started running immediately after noticing the Water Lizards and took a left on a crossroad. They may not have gone the way they wanted to and just chased after the monster presence.

When I check with the two while patting their heads——

””Ehehe~!””

Allen and Elena tried to dodge the question by tilting their heads and laughing. How cute you are, oy.

Because there weren’t any monsters, they chased after the first signs without noticing..... that’s probably how it went.

””Then, what do you want to do? Take a look and go this way? Or do you want to return?””

””Hm~!””

We aren’t really going for the shortest route, so I don’t mind dropping on the way, we can decide after returning too.

””This way~””

"Let's go~"

"Alright! Let's advance this way then."

""Yea!""

As a result, the two chose to continue going this way, so I decided to continue advancing.

Well, we immediately found the stairs down and quickly found the stairs on the twelfth floor as well.

We found a place which wasn't flooded on the thirteenth floor, so the capturing was suspended for a while.

It's still early to sleep, but because the floor is immersed in water, it would be better to rest if you can regardless of time.

Although we won't get wet thanks to the Mermaid Bracelet, sleeping with part of your body soaking in the water is a bit.....

That being the case, we decided to finish a meal and go to sleep early.

## **Chapter 78**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 5

"Morning."

""Morning~""

We have plenty of sleep, so we will start with the capture of the thirteenth floor but..... breakfast before that.

"Allen, Elena. What would you like to eat for breakfast?"

""N, you see~ Kurry~""

"..... Curry?"

""Yea, kurry~""

I see, curry huh..... a heavy request right after getting up came~

""No good~?""

"It's not that but..... well, it's not that suitable for breakfast you see~"

I have also eaten curry for breakfast before, but I'm of the opinion that curry is better for either lunch or dinner~

""Then~ crab~""

Crab..... hot pot!? The only crab dish I fed to the two is the crab hot pot, isn't it!? Ah, didn't I make soup too? The scope is different although similar. Well, I have the soup but you know~

"..... Erm, would a different way of eating be alright instead of a hot pot or a soup?"

""Yeah!""

I see~ Should I boil the crab and make kanitama [Japanese style omelette filled with crab meat served on a bed of rice] or something?

Alright, let's do it!

The kanitama was delicious and we resumed the capture after a short rest.

""Yaa!""

""Kisha ヽ(￣▽￣)ノ""

Allen and Elena jumped forward and unleashed a strong kick.

Right now, the two are defeating Army Crabs one after another.

Army Crabs are somewhat larger compared to Sand Crabs, they are monsters with hard shells and large claws. Although I said hard shells, I judged it not to be a problem and didn't stop Allen and Elena when they plunged at them, but..... to encounter crab monsters right after eating crabs.....

""Haah!""

""Kisha ヽ(￣▽￣)ノ""

The Army Crabs turn into drop items of shells and claws one by one.

The tough shells of Army Crabs are used as materials for armor, but..... it doesn't look like it at all after seeing the two.

""Finished~""

"Thank you for your hard work~ You are not injured, are you?"

""Nope!""

After finishing all Army Crabs, Allen and Elena returned after picking up the dropped items.

""So many crabs~! Delish~?""

"Ah~ This crab can't be eaten."

It's not like Army Crab isn't edible, but there aren't many parts which can be eaten.

""I see~""

They seemed a bit disappointed, but they understood that it can't be helped and started picking up the remaining drop items.

““Next is~ That way~””

After picking up all the drop items and advancing for a little, Allen and Elena pointed to the right on a crossroads.

““Onii~chan, here~””

“N? Oh, there’s a hidden room.”

After walking for a while uneventfully, Allen and Elena pointed at a wall. It appears they found a hidden room.

However, when I tried touching the wall to access the room, that wall didn’t move. Until now, the wall would open with a slide when pushed.

“It won’t open, huh.....”

““Huh~?””

I touched the wall all over, but it was simply a wall in the end.

“N~? But it seems that there certainly is a hidden room.....”

Somehow, I think that there’s a hidden room without a doubt.

Is the entrance to the room on the passage on the other side? No, we wouldn’t notice the room’s existence if that were true.

“..... Break in?”

It looks like a normal stone wall, so it should break if hit with one or two magic attacks, right?

The dungeon won’t collapse if one of the walls break. Rather, because it’s a mysterious existence, I think the wall would restore after a while.

“Allen, Elena~ Step back a little.”

““Okay!””

Because Allen and Elena stood back, I threw magic at the wall.

“ir Shot.”

The wall the air bullet crashed into——garagara, collapsed. The wall was unexpectedly fragile.

There was a room behind the wall as we thought with a treasure chest inside.

““Treasure~! Can we open~?””

“Go ahead~”

Allen and Elena rush to towards the treasure chest after entering the hidden room and fumble around the chest.

I let the two open it since there were no traps. Inside the chest, there was a single medicine bottle. When I used Appraisal on it, I understood that it's a lower-grade healing potion. As I have recovery magic, it's one of the medicines which I don't need.

""Medicine~?""

"That's right. It's a medicine that heals injuries."

""Hmm, amazing~?""

Allen and Elena looked at me with eyes full of some kind of expectations.

"It's one of the medicines I don't have yet. Thank you, Allen, Elena~"

""Ehehe~""

When I said such while patting their heads, the two bashfully smiled.

Kuku. Looks like I was right. The eyes of the two were saying "praise me, praise me" as I thought~

"Then, shall we go?"

""Yea!""

When we leave the hidden room and advance forward——

""There~""

"Oh, as expected! Then, shall we go down?"

""Yea!""

We found a staircase leading down without taking much time.

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"Huh?"

When we descended to the fourteenth floor, an unpleasant cold suddenly assaulted my skin.

A dreadful atmosphere floats around.

Unlike me who's wearing a jacket, Allen and Elena who are wearing short-sleeved clothes must be cold.

"Allen, Elena. You must be cold, right? Let's wear jackets."

""Is fine~?""

Allen and Elena said while tilting their heads in puzzlement.

"Yep, let's put them on."

I immediately took out the kemonomimi-hooded capes I got in Shirin and let the two wear them.

I thought these capes would not work until it cools down, but their turn came unexpectedly early.

“Is it not difficult to move in?”

“”Is fine~””

Ah, un. This time’s “is fine” is a proper “is fine.”

Allen and Elena’s range of “Fine” is staggeringly wide. I think that this time it wasn’t “It’s not cold” but close to “Can endure” instead.

There are also times when it’s easy to understand, but there are also times when I don’t notice, so I have to carefully watch the two’s expressions, so I don’t overlook anything~

When we begin the capture of the fifteenth floor——

“Shaaaa”

A Sea Snake appeared.

“Allen, Elena. Sea Snakes have venom, so you must not approach them, okay?”

“”Ye~s.””

Sea Snake is a snake of about 30cm in length with a considerably high fatality rate as it possesses a strong neurotoxin.

That very thing is smoothly swimming towards us.

“”Water Needle——..... Uniyu~””

Allen and Elena immediately switched to magic when I told them about the venom, but it appears that the smoothly swimming Sea Snake is difficult to hit with a Water Needle.

They are a bit daunted since the magic didn’t hit.

“It’s fine, properly watch its movements. You will hit it next time.”

“”Un. ——Water Needle~”

“Shaaaa”

The magic hit this time and the Sea Snake was defeated.

“”Yay~””

“Well done~”

“”Ehehe~””

Getting the point, they would immediately defeat the Sea Snakes we encountered after that, and so we advanced while obtaining large quantities of drop items such as Sea Snake's skin, fangs, and neurotoxin.

## Chapter 79

Dungeon of Ripples – Capture 6

After resting between the sixteenth and seventeenth floor, we are currently advancing through the seventeenth floor.

“Guaaaaa!!”

I can see a bear with a deep blue colored fur—Water Bear running towards us while splashing water in the distance.

Is it among the largest variety of monsters we have seen in this dungeon until now?

The moment the Water Bear appeared, Allen and Elena began running towards it.

“Guaaa!”

The Water Bear who noticed the two rushing towards it fired several Water Ball while running.

“Water Ball.”

Supporting the children from behind, I countered each an every Water Ball!!

As if understanding it, Allen and Elena closed the distance between the Water Bear in one go.

““Yaa!””

“Guaaaaaa!!”

Allen and Elena were running towards the front of the Water Bear, but they parted left and right before making direct contact, and drove an explosive kick to its both sides.

It would be difficult to defeat Water Bear who is water and cold resistant with magic. However, that has nothing to do with Allen's and Elena's kicking. It's not magic but a blow.....

““Yaa!””

“Guaaaaaa!!”

The Water Bear whose movements stopped after one blow got ax-kicked this time. It's not given any time to counterattack. The Water Bear who ate the two's full power ax kicks collapsed to the ground.

““Haa~!””

“Guaaa.....”

Delivering a finishing blow, Allen and Elena kicked the Water Bear’s body flying.

The Water Bear’s movements completely stopped and it turned into a drop item.

“”Defeated~””

Allen and Elena picked up the dropped pelt and brought it to me. It seems we obtained quite the large pelt.

When I received it from the two and touched it, it felt quite pleasant to the touch. This looks good for making Allen’s and Elena’s cold weather clothes.

“Shall we make Allen’s and Elena’s coat out of this?”

“”Coat?””

“Right. It’s clothes to wear when it’s cold.”

“”This is~?””

When I spoke about making coats from the Water Bear’s pelt, Allen and Elena asked while pulling on the hem of their capes they were currently wearing.

“Well, this will also make you a bit cold during the cold season, so let’s make something warmer.”

“”Got it~””

The fabric of the capes the two are wearing at the moment is thick, but I’m bit uneasy about them wearing it in midwinter. Therefore, when I explained such, the two nodded in understanding.

“Allen, like Joule!”

“Elena, like Feat!”

“Nn?”

But, what continued after that was Allen and Elena saying the names of the contracted beasts.

Joule and Feat? ..... In what meaning?

“”This~””

I tilted my head in puzzlement without understanding what Allen and Elena meant. Then, the two put on the hoods of the capes and pulled on the kemonomimi on top. So they mean—

“Ah! You want to look like Joule and Feat!”

“”Yea!?””

“Roger. Let’s look for a store that will make it for us then.”

““Yay~””

It appears that the two are pleased by the kemonomimi hoods. If that's the case, let's make them eared coats just as they wish. It's cute after all!

Wanting a bit more of the Water Bear pelt and walking around with “Will a Bear appear soon I wonder~?” thoughts, we encountered approximately three meters large turtle—Bubble Archelon.

After half of the dungeon—from the fifteenth floor, the monsters that appear are large. The Water Bear from a little while ago was also quite big.

““What's that~?””

“N? That is a turtle.”

““Turtle~!””

“Sha ＼＼＼＼”

“Oh?”

““Uniyu?””

The Bubble Archelon noticed us and spat out soccerball-sized bubbles towards us.

Our field of vision was covered with bubbles in the blink of an eye.

“Allen, Elena. You mustn't touch that, okay?”

““Yesss.””

The buoyantly floating bubbles seem just like ordinary soap bubbles, but they are not ordinary by any means.

A considerable explosion will occur the moment they are touched and broken.

Bubble Archelon is a monster that disturbs the movements of the hostile opponents and escapes in the meanwhile.

“Ah, that's right.”

I stored all of those soapy bubbles into the Infinite Storage.

Even if it looks like making contact with the bubbles while storing them in the Infinite Storage, there's actually no contact, so it's possible to store them without breaking them.

Un, the field of vision is restored with this! After I finished removing the bubbles, I could see the Bubble Archelon escaping in the distance.

Its movements are so swift for a turtle monster! That didn't happen, so there's plenty of distance to attack.

“Wind Cutter.”

I fired a blade of wind towards the turtle who was escaping without paying any attention to us, but it seems it didn't have any effect against the turtle's hard shell.

"Sha ヽヽヽ"

The Bubble Archelon noticed that all of the discharged bubbles disappeared, so it spat out bubbles again, but I immediately tidied up the bubbles into my Infinite Storage[].

"Hmm, let's see. ——Water Pillar."

"Gyaa ヽヽヽヽヽ"

When I spring forth a pillar of water under the turtle and onto its belly which seemed like a weak spot, the Bubble Archelon splendidly overturned.

""Yaa!""

Allen and Elena started vigorously running towards the Bubble Archelon and drove a full power drop kick? ..... No, is that closer to a landing rather than a kick? Towards its defenseless belly.

"Gyasha ヽヽヽヽヽ"

Well, whether it was a kick or a landing, its effect was excellent as the Bubble Archelon ceased to breathe and turned into drop item.

""Defeated~""

Allen and Elena picked up the drop item and returned to me.

""Here!""

"Thank you."

It appears there were several drop items.

This is a shell. And this is turtle meat. Moreover, it's edible. How do you prepare turtle meat? Like a suppon? I can think only of a hot-pot when it comes to suppon.

"Beear, beear."

"Tuuurtle, tuurtle."

After that, we encountered several Water Bears and Bubble Archelons, we defeated them in the same way each time and acquired a lot of drop items.

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""This is~?""

"This design is the same as the trap from before, isn't it? It's that one that drops rocks from above when stepped on."

""That one is~?""

"That one is a dummy. You mustn't touch the area protruding around it, okay~"

""Yes~""

The eighteenth floor is a floor covered in many traps with many passages.

"Oopsy!"

""A trap~?""

"Yeah, this is one too. Be careful not to step on it, okay~"

""Yesss.""

Traps are loaded with magical power, so I can generally tell them apart with Detection. That's why we are able to avoid them before getting caught in them.

""This too~?""

"Yep, looks like it."

Allen and Elena discover one trap after another too, but——

""Ah."""

"Eh? —— Oops!"

They occasionally carelessly step on the traps.

The moment they stepped on the trap this time, an arrow flew out of a hole in the wall. The arrow is fired in the height of an adult's head, so it's not dangerous for the two though.

Traps, unlike monsters, are inorganic things, so it might be difficult for Allen's and Elena's Presence Detection skill to detect them. Well, even if the skill doesn't react, they are able to notice most of the traps with pure intuition.

""Stepped on it~ Ehehe~""

Trying to gloss over it by laughing is adorable, so I will forgive them!

Too easy? It's not like I got hurt or anything so it's fine!

"Be careful you two~"

""Okay~""

## **Chapter 80**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 7

We cautiously slipped through the trap covered the eighteenth floor and safely arrived at the nineteenth floor, but the nineteenth floor was full of traps as well.

There is no doubt that it would be a seriously tricky floor for parties with no trap avoidance personnel.

But, because it was a floor where nearly no monsters appear, I was glad that we have to be careful just about the traps, but..... Allen and Elena seemed to be a bit dissatisfied.

""Yaa!""

""""Kyasha ククク!""""

They trampled a large group of Army Crabs,

""Haa ク!""

""""Guaaaa ク!""""

They kicked a group of Water Bears flying,

""Torya ク!""

“Gisha クククク!”

They destroyed a shell of a Bubble Archelon.

Whether this is a recoil from not being able to fight on the nineteenth floor, the two exterminated monsters we encountered on the twentieth floor with great vigor.

As expected, I was in a panic when they destroyed the Bubble Archelon's shell. I immediately checked whether Allen's and Elena's legs are alright, but there wasn't a problem at all.

And so, we progressed with the capture in such way and we have currently arrived in front of the twentieth floor's boss room.

""Can touch~?""

"Ah, yeah. Go ahead~"

""Okay!""

This is the third door to the boss room we have encountered. Allen and Elena already understand the door's structure and asked whether they can touch it in order to enter inside.

When I permitted them, they touched the door at once. Then, as we thought, the door slowly automatically opened.

""Going in~!""

"Hey there, hey there, don't rush~"

The door got completely opened and I was astonished as I entered inside while holding Allen's and Elena's hands so they wouldn't rush in.

"This is something....."

““Ohh~””

I could hear the voices of astonishment from Allen and Elena as well.

I was certain that it would be an empty spacious room, but it was a waterfall lake surrounded by nature.

Moreover, there was a spring of considerable size spreading below.

——Basha □ n!

At that moment, accompanied by a loud noise, a large red object lept out of the lake and sank in the lake with a splash once again.

That was..... a goldfish, wasn't it~? Is that this room's boss?

““Fish~?””

“Looks like a fish friend. I wonder if that is the master here?”

A gigantic goldfish is err..... it should be called Murderfish. A dangerous-sounding name for a goldfish.

““Ah.””

When the Murderfish sticks out its face out of the water, it released a jet of water while aiming at us.

“Oopsy.”

““Wawa.””

We evade the jet which made a hearty sound upon impact. The ground where we were standing just a second ago is gouged out.

“Whoa~.....”

““Ohh~””

It was an attack of considerable power.

When I look at the lake, the Murderfish submerged again and disappeared.

“Allen, wants to do that~!”

“Elena wants to do that too~!”

It appears that Allen and Elena took a liking to the magic the Murderfish used. The eyes of the two are dazzlingly sparkling.

That kind of magic, huh..... well, I think it would be good for the two to increase the variety of magic they use, why not teach them new magic?

“Let's see.....——Water Jet.”

“Shaaaa □”

I tried shooting similar magic towards the Murderfish who showed its face from the water again.

Water Jet is an attack with a feeling of vigorously discharging compressed water.

Not expecting my attack, the Murderfish received my attack upfront and escaped back into the water.

“You can use it with this magic?”

“”Yay~!””

There was a bit of recoil when releasing the water, but it will be safe for the two to use as well.

Allen and Elena were pleased with the new magic and raised their hands into the air.

“Then, how about taking an aim and trying it?”

“”Yea! ——Water Jet.””

Taking aim at the Murderfish when it appears, Allen and Elena shoot the Water Jet, but this time, the Murderfish spewed out water and opposed the two’s magic.

“Uh-oh.”

Allen’s and Elena’s first time fired magic was being overwhelmed and the Murderfish’s jet of water was coming our way, so I took the two under my arms and jumped.

“”Au~!””

“Because you simply lost in power, try increasing the magical power a little bit next time.”

“”Okay! ——Water Jet.””

Increasing the quantity of magical power, Allen and Elena released their magic towards the Murderfish once again.

The Murderfish undauntedly spewed out water.

The two’s magic collided with the Murderfish’s and scattered in the air. It seems they have offset each other.

“Doing good! Can you do it again with a little bit more magical power?”

“”Can do~!””

We would have to find a different way to fight if the Murderfish stayed under the water, but it’s far easier because the Murderfish has to stick out its face out of the water’s surface to counterattack.

In addition, its attack pattern is predictable and it's not getting out of on the ground to attack us, so Allen and Elena were absorbed in practicing.

Well, it's easy for us to fight the Murderfish because it won't fight close quarters. People with poor magic firepower would probably suffer hardships.

""Water Jet.””

“Shaaaa””

This time, the two overcame the Murderfish’s attack and their water jet reached the Murderfish.

The effect of water attacks against a water attributed monsters are partially reduced, but it seems it properly received damage.

“Yep, that was good. Then, shall all three of us do it will all of our strength next?”

””Yeah!””

“Here I go. ——Water Jet.””

””Water Jet.””

I participate this time as well and the three of us fire the magic simultaneously.

“Shaaaaaa.....”

The united power of us three directly hit the Murderfish, sending its large body into the air. It crashed into the cliff where the waterfall was flowing, it then bounced off of it and sunk into the lake with a flashy splash.

After a short while, the sunk Murderfish floated up and changed into drop items.

The dropped items were reddish things and a relatively large water magic stone. This seems to be the Murderfish’s fin. Also, the Murderfish’s scales and meat.

I collected everything just in case, but..... goldfish meat, huh..... this would require courage to eat..... I will definitely hoard it in the Infinite Storage.

While thinking about how to deal with the Murderfish meat, I saw something shiny behind the waterfall.

Looking around the room and not finding the door, it appears that the entrance to the next floor is behind the waterfall. Well, a cave behind the waterfalls is the staple.

””Shiny~””

“Yeah. It appears the exit is behind the waterfall.””

Passing under the waterfall, there really was a cave as I thought. And the transfer device was there as well.

I don't touch the transfer device this time as I don't intend to go to the lower floors, but we will take a break in this place.

"Allen, Elena~ Let's have a meal. What would you like?"

""N, you see~ fish~""

"Fish, is it? Will you guys help me prepare it?"

""Will do~!""

They have requested fish for the meal, but as I have no spirit to cook the goldfish meat, I made a meal out of a normal fish I bought at the market.

## Chapter 81

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 8

"Good morning."

""Morning~""

"Now then, what would you like for breakfast?"

""Furench Toast~""

"Allen and Elena love the French toast, don't you~"

""Yea! It's de~~l~~lish~""

We who have rested at the twentieth floor's transfer device had a breakfast, made preparations and descended on the twenty-first floor.

The water depth on the twenty-first floor increased more than before. The water reaches up to my knees.

Since that's the case, it reaches up to Allen's and Elena's waists and advancing like this would be impossible.

"Kyan."

Therefore, I summoned Joule.

As he would get wet if I called him normally, I summoned him in a small form so I could hold him, gave him the Mermaid bracelet we found in the treasure chest on the tenth floor and made him transform into his large form.

Because the mermaid bracelet has an automatic size adjustment effect, there weren't any problems even after Joule transformed.

(Allen, Elena, come up~)

""Joule."""

Thus, I had Allen and Elena ride on Joule who became big.

Rather, Joule who became able to use telepathy called the two himself. Allen and Elena playfully clung onto Joule's back.

I'm sorry to the other contracted beasts, but I'm summoning only Joule this time.

I have only one spare mermaid bracelet in the first place, so I can't call them.

Well, Bolt who is a bird wouldn't be able to exhibit his full power in this restricted space of dungeon and using lightning in the place full of water would be dangerous. As for Vector, I haven't confirmed the power of his fire magic yet on top of not knowing what he would do, so I judged summoning him as dangerous.

I thought there was no problem in summoning Feat at first as well, but it isn't certain whether one would still get wet from moving around even while having the Flight skill. It would be a bit strange if just Feat was soaked wet.....

As I thought, I would like more mermaid bracelets. I wonder if Miko Princess would lend me some mermaid bracelets if I put up a request with her? They don't appear on the markets on the surface that much, but mermaids can apparently easily make them.....

Let's ask when we go there to play next time.

"Alright! Then, shall we go?"

""Yea!""

(Let's go, let's go!)

When I advance on the twenty-first floor accompanied by Joule with Allen and Elena on his back, a smallish dark crocodilian—a Black Alligator has appeared. It's entirely pitch black, so it doesn't stand out too much, but a dark jewel is embedded on its forehead.

Also, although I said small, it's only slightly smaller than me, so it has quite the size. Because there are crocodilians the size of being able to swallow people, I said smallish in comparison to them.

(A prey has appeared~!)

When Joule who discovered the Black Alligator shouted such, he began running still with Allen and Elena on his back.

(There~!)

"Gyaah オオ!"

Joule approached the Black Alligator and jumped up, squashing it and sinking it under water.

""Hiya~""

Allen and Elena who were on Joule's back while he sprinted and jumped up, raised their voices cheerfully.

It appears they are having fun.

(Oniichan, I defeated it~)

"Thanks, Joule. Good work."

Joule brought the dropped items of alligator meat and skin to me.

Alligator meat, huh..... it seems it can be normally eaten.

Alligator skin is an attractive material for a wallet, but wallets are not used on Aetheredia that much, so there's no meaning in making them.

Because there is no paper money and only coins, a drawstring handbags-like pouches are the most popular. The Adventurer's Guild's rewards are handed over in pouches as the amounts are large.

(Oniichan, Oniichan! I want to eat this meat~!)

"N? Ah, this meat? Because Joule has defeated it, of course, you can eat it."

(I didn't mean it like that~)

Huh? Didn't he say that he wants to eat the Black Alligator meat which just dropped?

(I'm talking about Oniichan's dish~ Next time you cook, I would like to eat a dish made from that meat~)

"Allen too~"

"Elena as well~"

I thought Joule wants to eat raw meat once in a while because he's a carnivorous animal, but it appears he wanted to make a request for a meal. Allen and Elena took the opportunity to raise their hands and appeal as well.

"Ah, you meant it like that. Let's see, I want to do something simple for the lunch, do you mind having it for the dinner? Allen and Elena too, are you fine with that?"

(Alright~ I'm looking forward to it~♪)

""Yea!""

That being the case, alligator meat was decided for dinner.

Rather, I have so easily agreed, but how do you prepare alligator meat? Was alligator meat a meat with a plain taste? I feel like I've heard that in the Amazon special edition program.....

Alright, let's cook it thinking that it's chicken meat!

(Then, since that's decided, we have to get more meat! Allen, Elena, let's keep going~!)

""Meat~!""

It seems that the hunting soul has been ignited within the children for some reason.

The block of meat we have obtained just now is enough for today's dinner though~

..... Ooy. Capturing the dungeon is our main objective, so be moderate with the hunting, okay~"

(Yes~)

""Yesss.""

(Sniif, sniff. That way? Allen, Elena, let's go~)

""Ohh~!""

.....

I have cautioned them just in case, but they are completely focused on finding prey.

I feel like they will be able to obtain a tremendous amount of alligator meat with Joule's sense of smell and Allen's and Elena's presence detection..... I walked behind the two children and one animal while worrying about the amount of meat they will obtain.

""There~""

Allen and Elena immediately discovered the prey.

(Really. It's red, but it has the same shape so it should be fine. Allen, Elena, let's go~)

""Yea!""

It's different in color from the Black Alligator, a red crocodilian——Red Alligator.

""Water Ball."""

(Water Ball.)

The next moment, Allen, Elena, and Joule fired magic simultaneously.

It appears that Joule's signal wasn't to break into a run, but a signal to fire magic. They haven't made any preparations before though~ They are perfectly in sync.

"Gyaah ヽ(￣▽￣)!"

The Red Alligator fell prey to the magic and ceased to breathe.

Even though this is the second half of an intermediate level dungeon, the children defeat the monsters they encounter too quickly.

(It isn't meat~)

““Muu~””

This time’s drops seem to be a red skin and fangs. Allen, Elena, and Joule were disheartened because there was no meat.

(It can’t be helped~ Umm, next is.....)

““Joule, that way~””

(Got it~)

But, they have begun looking for the next prey immediately.

“Nnaa~?”

I became slightly lonely from watching the two children and animal getting along, so I decided to summon Feat. Of course, in the small form.

“I can’t let you fight because you would get wet, but will you accompany me, Feat?”

“Nnaa!”

Patting Feat who snuggled up to me, I chase after Allen, Elena, and Joule who went ahead.

““There~””

(There it is! Allen, Elena, hang on tightly)

““Yea.””

(Then, here I go~)

Joule instructed Allen and Elena to hold on him properly and began to run.

(There~!)

“Gyaah ䷀!”

Then, he trampled the Black Alligator while vigorously running.

Looking at it like that, Joule’s and the children’s way of fighting is very similar, isn’t it?

(Yay~ We got the meat~)

““Onii~chan, sparkly~””

“N? Ah, it is.”

The dropped item seems to be a thumbnail-sized Black Onyx. That’s the thing on the Black Alligator’s forehead.

I think it’s a rare drop item with a considerably low rate of obtaining, but..... well, it’s Allen and Elena. It wouldn’t be strange for them to get their hands on rare drop items.

(Alright! Let's keep going~)

""Ohh ヽ""

Because the hunt kept going on, we were hunting all day long in the end.

In addition to the black and red alligator monsters, there were also blue and brown ones, we obtained a large amount of skin and fangs of each color. We also got a considerable amount of jewels. I wonder where the low drop rate went.

Of course, we have obtained large quantities of meat, but even though their colors were different, the meat itself is the same. It seems there's no need to eat and compare.

"Look, it's done~"

""Yay~""

(Looks delicious~)

"Nnaa~"

We found a place with no water and I made an alligator meat dish as promised. I made sukiyaki stock[Stock mixed with soy sauce, mirin, and sugar] and tried making it on the sukiyaki [3. Thin slices of beef, cooked with various vegetables] style.

""Delish~""

(Delicious~)

"Nnaa~"

It was well-received.

..... It's unexpected without a stench and very easy to eat~ It looks that I will be able to use it in various dishes.

## **Chapter 82**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 9

Because the alligator meat from yesterday was far easier to eat and more delicious than I thought, both I and the children liked it, so they decided to get even more alligator meat today.

I stopped them in panic. We already have plenty of alligator meat, I somehow persuaded them.

That being the case, we have promptly descended the staircase we have found today and started the capture of the twenty-second floor.

(Let's get in high spirits and go~!)

““Ohh~””

“Nnaa~”

Because the twenty-second floor’s passage also had a knee-height water level, I put Allen and Elena on Joule, held the small Feat in my hands and we departed.

(Ah, alligator discovered~!)

““Yay~ Joule, do your best~””

(Here I go~!)

Just as we set out, a White Alligator has appeared and Joule who discovered it vigorously broke into a run.

(Tooh~!)

“Gyaah 𠮶𠮶!”

Joule easily trampled the White Alligator.

(Meat get~)

““Get~””

The dropped items are alligator meat and..... this is a topaz!

A rare drop jewel right from the start..... seriously, where did the low drop chance go to? Aren’t they dropping too much?

(Ah, another one discovered~!)

““Meat~””

Allen and Elena love sparkly things, but they were happier about the meat this time. Do they like the alligator meat that much?

“Next, Allen!”

“Elena too~”

(Sure~ Can you go from here? Shall I approach a little bit more?)

““Is fine~ —Water Jet.””

(Yay~ It’s meat again~)

““Yay~””

Before I come to myself, the children defeated an alligator and obtained meat again.

The meat won’t rot because it’s stored in the Infinite Storage, but we got enough meat to eat it regularly for a few years. But, while that may be true, the children would get angry at me if I sold it, right? No, they won’t get angry..... I feel like they would be sulking.

I would be troubled if they sulked, so as I thought, I can't sell the alligator meat~  
Ah, I could gift it to Cedric-san and others! The children wouldn't tell me not to then.  
But, I should confirm with them first.

"Oy~ Even if you get so much alligator meat, I won't be able to use it all~ What do you say about gifting Cedric-san and others some?"

""Yea, gift~""

(Okay~)

"Naa~"

I heard the words of approval from everyone. With this, the stock of the alligator meat will decrease.

Then, while thinking such——

(Then, we have to defeat more alligators!)

""Ohh~""

"..... Excuse me?"

It appears they intend to get even more alligator meat.

No, wait a moment! Even though we already have plenty of alligator meat, why are you set on obtaining even more!?

""That way~""

(Alright, here I go~)

Without being able to stop them, Allen, Elena, and Joule ran off to get more alligator meat.

Huh..... I feel like it would be useless even if I stopped them? Ah~.....

"Naa~"

While dejected over the different plan, Feat snuggled up to close in order to comfort me.

While being healed, I hastily followed after the children.

After that, we were alligator hunting all day long. Though I wanted to stop them..... I couldn't.

Understandably, we obtained a massive quantity of alligator meat. Alligator meat of such quantity..... seriously, what to do.....

◇ ◇ ◇

The next day after the second consecutive day of alligator hunting, we stepped on the twenty-third floor.

There, the knee-deep water level returned to the ankle depth.

It's not necessary to let Allen and Elena ride Joule, but they said that they want Joule and Feat to go with us, so I decided to take them along.

Ah, Feat is being carried by me as usual though.

The journey was smooth and we favorably progressed. The reason being the children instantly killing all the monsters that appeared. My turn has quite not come yet, but I'm enduring, the children are enjoying themselves and I can't barge in uninvited, after all~

While thinking such, we have discovered a treasure chest hidden along the path.

We haven't found one that wasn't in a hidden room, but it was magnificently placed in the middle of the path.

""Treasure~..... huuh~?""

Allen and Elena rushed up to the treasure chest, but they stopped in the middle for some reason.

"What's wrong?"

(What, what?)

"Nnaa?"

""Somewhat weird~?""

"N?"

Allen and Elena pointed at the treasure chest and proclaimed it weird.

I immediately used Appraisal on the treasure chest. Doing that, I found that it's a mimic—a monster that camouflaged itself as a treasure chest.

"That is a mimic. A monster."

""Mimic~?""

(A fake~?)

"Nnaa~?"

Even though it looks like a treasure chest until the moment you open it, the two noticed it well. As expected of them.

"Right. It's a fake treasure chest. It pretends to be a treasure chest and assaults those who approach it."

"Naa~"

"N? Ah, Feat wants to defeat it? It would work with magic. Sure, go ahead Feat."

"Nnaa!"

When I give permission to Feat who wanted to defeat it, Feat immediately fired Wind Cutter and attacked the mimic. Then, with a bang, a white smoke escaped from the mimic and the pattern on the treasure chest changed.

It appears that this is a genuine treasure chest.

"Allen, Elena, want to open it?"

""Yea, will open~""

Since it seemed that there are no more gimmicks, the two opened the chest and when I looked inside, there was a Transfer Magic Tool (simple) inside.

""What is it~?""

"A transfer magic tool."

Speaking simply, it's that. That thing which the guild uses to send letters.

It's a convenient thing, but it's useless without the recognition code of the recipient.

However, should I sell it or hold onto it? It might eventually become needed. Besides, if I got another magic tool of the same kind, I would be able to exchange with whomever I liked.

""Transfer~?""

"Right. Remember how we instantly moved from the hall to the tenth floor?"

""Yea!""

"This can do the same thing. This fellow can only send letters or small things to a person with the same thing though."

""(Ohh~)""

"Nnaa~"

The children raised their voices of admiration.

Do Allen and Elena properly understand? But, I feel like Joule and Feat didn't understand at all, but somehow raised their voices in consent. Well, Joule and Feat are monsters, so it might be possible that transfer equipment wasn't necessary for their daily lives until now.

"Alright. Then, shall we keep going?"

""Yea! That way~""

With Allen and Elena pointing out the direction, we soon discovered the staircase to the twenty-fourth floor.

We continued the capture and were able to find the staircase leading to the twenty-fifth floor.

That was all for the day. I decided to rest before descending.

By the way, alligator meat was used for today's dinner. We ate it deep-fried with soy sauce. Un, it was immensely delicious.

## **Chapter 83**

Dungeon of Ripples - Capture 10

"Fa....."

(Oniichan, morning~)

""Ah."""

"Gufu!"

Waking up from a short sleep, I heard Joule's, Allen's, and Elena's voices. And then at the same time, a terrible impact on my belly..... I'm choking.

"..... Joule."

Joule who turned into the small form was on my belly. The impact from a little while ago appears to be from Joule jumping on me.

I would catch him in my hands as usual, but I caught him with the pit of my stomach instead because I was just getting up.

This impact with no aggressiveness with a small form..... I see, it's only given that the big Joule trampled the alligators to death~

(Au~..... I'm sorry.)

Joule who noticed my fainting in agony after his jumping impact was visibly feeling down. His tail would usually flap all over the place, but it's now hanging in despondent.

"No, yeah, I'm fine. Good morning, Joule. Well, I won't tell you to stop jumping onto me, but please, I request you to do the landing carefully next time."

(Got it~)

When I pat Joule who was feeling despondent while rising up, I caution Joule to pay attention to the landing next time. I understand he didn't have any ill intentions, but I would like to avoid that impact every time.

"Allen and Elena too, good morning."

""Morning~""

"Naa~"

"Good morning to you as well, Feat."

I finish greeting the other children and start preparing breakfast after putting in order my clothes.

“Now then, what shall we eat today~”

““Onigiri~””

“N? You want to eat onigiri?”

““Yea!””

(Me too~)

“Naa~”

While thinking about what freshly cooked dish to make, Allen and Elena made a request. It appears they want onigiri this morning. Joule and Feat are apparently okay with that as well.

“What would you like for the filling?”

““N, you see~ fish~””

Speaking of onigiri with fish filling that I made, it was salmon and tuna mayo. In addition, miso soup with plenty of vegetables and tamagoyaki to go with that.

““It’s delish~””

(..... Yum yum.)

“Nnaa~”

We start capturing after eating the meal. Today is the twenty-fifth floor.

““““Kisha 〇〇〇““““””

Just as we descended on the twenty-fifth floor, Army Crabs appeared. In a large quantity at that.

““Muu~””

(Those are hard and not so delicious~)

“Naa~”

Because it was monsters not suitable for ingredients, the children were disappointed.

..... Rather, Joule. You have eaten them before? Moreover, raw?

Huh..... Feat is nodding in agreement?

(Do you think Oniichan could make a tasty meal out of it?)

“Naa~”

““Ohh~?””

Everyone looks at me with expectations.

Cooking with Armi Crabs? Erm..... there are not many edible parts, but it's not impossible. But..... they are not meant for eating.....

“..... If it's dashi..... I could do it?”

They are materials used for making armor, but a crab is a crab?

““(Dashi~?)””

“It's for soup.”

(Yay~ I want to drink a soup~ Then, I will do my best and defeat them, okay~)

“Allen too~”

“Elena too~”

It appears that it has been decided that I will make a soup from the Army Crabs.

Allen, Elena, and Joule vigorously ran towards the Army Crabs.

Well, they have run off with such vigor to defeat the Army Crabs and they will surely obtain many materials, so there shouldn't be a problem in trying to make dashi.

“Naa~”

“N?”

“Nnaannaa~”

“Ah, Feat wants to participate as well?”

“Naa~”

Feat who was in my hands wanted to participate as well, so when I released Feat from my hands, Feat started firing magic at the Army Crabs mid-air.

Because there are many Army Crabs, I should participate in attacking too. I would like to earn some experience even if little.

“Water Needle.”

““Yaa~””

(Eiya~)

“Nnaa!”

With all of us moving, the large crowd of Army Crabs got exterminated in a blink of an eye.

""Finished~""

A large number of drop items were scattered all over the place.

We have obtained many shells, legs, claws, and magic stones, but the children were most delighted about the Army Crab eggs they saw for the first time. There was also nori for some reason.....

Is that "it"? Was it stuck to the crab's shell or something? I wonder if the dungeon is pushing me to make the soup.....

(Oniichan, can you make the soup with this? There's still lots~?)

"No, no, this is plenty. However, I will make it tonight"

(Yeah! Yay~ I'm looking forward to it~)

""Looking forward to it~""

"Naa~"

If I say something wrong, it would turn into the alligator hunting, so I have to be careful about my words.

"There, there, let's get going~"

""(Yay~)""

"Naa~"

I would like to capture at least the twenty-sixth floor today after all. Let's crisply progress! ——Is what I thought, but..... it didn't go according to my plan.

""Many~""

(Really~ So many~)

"Naa~"

A large crowd of Army Crabs appeared again.

"..... Let's quickly defeat them~"

""(Yay~)""

"Naa~"

After I said such, the children really defeated the Army Crabs quickly.

Thus, we obtained many Army Crab drop items again.

(I'm looking forward the dinner, right~)

""Right~""

"Naa~"

Yep, soup making..... I will do my best.....

After that, we smoothly advanced through the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh floors.

And when we secured a place to rest, I started making the children's long-awaited Army Crab soup.

I smashed the hard shell so it would fit into the pot and I started extracting the essence accompanied by gentle clicking.

I threw the Army Crab eggs and nori into the strained soup. The eggs were thumbnail-sized with gelatine-like quality, so I was worried whether it would melt while cooked, but there wasn't a problem as it floated in the soup. Lastly, I salted it and tried the taste!

Un, it tastes unexpectedly good. Besides, these Army Crab eggs! Their popping texture matches the soup well!

"Allen too~"

"Elena too~"

(Not fair~ Me too~)

"Nnaa~"

I was checking the taste of the soup, but the children found fault with it and quickly rushed towards me.

Since it couldn't be helped, I retrieved a few pre-made dishes from the Infinite Storage and we had the dinner just like that.

## **Chapter 84**

Dungeon of Ripples – Capture 11

Today, we are capturing the twenty-eighth floor. Including this, there are three more floors in the Dungeon of Ripples.

I see the end~ I came all the way here without any troubles thanks to Allen and Elena.

Well~ I hardly did anything until now~ ..... Just cooking? As their guardian, I wonder if it's all right.....?

Allen and Elena are having fun, but should I ask them to let me do the fighting.....? I'm troubled, but.....

""Ah, a bear~""

Allen and Elena who discovered a Water Bear broke into a run.

""Yaa!""

"Guaah....."

And they insta-killed it.

""Onii~chan, look, look~""

The two put on the pelt which dropped and cheerfully returned to my side.

Ah..... yeah, asking them to leave it to me would be impossible. I can't snatch the two's amusement~

"That's a large pelt, isn't it~"

""Yea! Like Joule and Feat~ Is enough~?""

"N? ..... Yeah, it's enough~ I did not forget, so let's have it made properly, okay?"

""Yea!""

It's the Joule and Feat heavy winter clothing imitation they wanted to make.

We were talking just about coats at that time, but looking at the amount of pelts we have gathered, we have more than enough to make a whole body animal costume~ Rather, wouldn't that be better?

(Whatwhat~?)

"Naa~?"

""Same~""

(N?)

"Nnaa?"

Joule and Feat whose names came out showed interest in the topic, but the two animals tilted their heads at Allen's and Elena's words.

Well, they wouldn't understand just from being told "same" right~

"Ah, the plan is to make Allen's and Elena's coats from the Water Bear pelt in Joule's and Feat's style."

(Me!? Really!?)

"Nnaa!?"

When I convey to Joule and Feat so they would understand, the two animals showed a surprise and then their bodies expressed happiness.

(Eh, that bear just now? Just the pelt? Shouldn't we get more of that then? Alright, let's look for bears~)

"Naa~"

""Ohh~""

"No, wait a moment! We have enough pelts already!"

Thus, Joule and Feat ran off to search for Water Bears in high tension. Together with Allen and Elena..... I chased after the children and stopped them.

(Ehh~? I mean, we will be matching~)

"Naa~"

"No, we have it, okay! We have plenty of pelts, so we will be fine even if you don't look for it."

(Muu~)

"Naa~"

After somehow managing to stop the bear hunting which just barely started, Allen and Elena found a hidden room in the passage after resuming the capture.

""Here~""

"N? Oh, it certainly looks hidden room-ish."

(Yay~ I wonder if there's a treasure~)

"Naa~"

It wasn't a trapdoor room like the before, but the destroy the wall hidden room. Therefore, when we enter after destroying the wall, there was a spacious room with a stone altar with an artificial fountain with light brown liquid in the center.

It's unlike any hidden room we have found before.

"This is the smell of alcohol?"

When I approached the fountain, the smell of alcohol gradually became stronger.

I'm fine, but I would be troubled if it had a bad influence on Allen and Elena, so I isolated the scent of surroundings with the wind.

And when I used Appraisal on the fountain, the result was "Brandy Fountain".

It appears that the light brown liquid is alcohol, a brandy at that.

Of course, there's no harm on the body——no, it's an alcohol, so drinking way too much would harm the body..... in this case, the harm is in the toxic meaning.

But, it seems there are no problems with drinking it, so I gave it a try.

"Ah, it's good."

When I scoop it in my hands and try, it tasted nostalgic.

"Yep, it's a brandy without a doubt. It's normally delicious."

I drank alcohol if invited by a friend. It was only to such degree, so I'm not that knowledgeable about alcohol, but I'm thinking whether this brandy doesn't have a considerably good taste.

Speaking of popular alcohol circulating around Aetherdia, it would be an ale. And then, wine and apple cider-like alcohol made from fruit.

I might find it if I looked for it, but I haven't seen any brandy so far even though I saw products made from the same grapes. I found balsamic vinegar and apple cider-like vinegar though~

As for the alcohol made of grains with the exception of ale—I haven't seen any whiskey, gin, or vodka.

The white wheat which is used as feed for the livestock—I thought that finding a rice wine would be hopeless, but I might be able to find it somewhere in a dungeon.

Finding a brandy here is a good fortune. Of course, I should draw some of it, right?

..... If I'm not mistaken, I should have an empty water cask.

There are cases like this, so it's necessary to purchase more empty casks or bottles.

""Is delish~?""

"It is. But, this is a beverage for adults, so Allen and Elena mustn't drink it, okay?"

""..... Yess.""

Allen and Elena seemed interested, but this is alcohol. I can't Allen and Elena drink this.

""Uniyu~""

"Au~n"

"Nnya!?"

"..... N?"

While I was taking out the empty cask from the Infinite Storage, I suddenly heard Allen, Elena, and Joule let out weird voices.

""..... Not delish.""

(This is not good~)

"Hey! Ehh!? Did you perhaps drink it? Ahh, seriously~~~ Here, fruit water, drink it."

It appears that the children drank the fountain liquid as soon as I took my eyes off of them.

Feat didn't seem to drink it and was quite shocked when the two and one animal drank.

I retrieved the children's favorite fruit water from the Infinite Storage in panic and let them and Joule drink.

""Uniyu~""

"Are you feeling sick?"

""..... Not sick~""

(Ugh~~~)

Even though they drank it, it should be only a small amount, so I think there won't be any problems.

That reminds me, Allen and Elena have Abnormal Status Resistance, don't they? With that, would it be difficult for them to suffer from a hangover? Well, at the moment, rather than that——

"You guys! I told you not to drink it, didn't I?"

I have to properly scold Allen, Elena, and Joule!

""I'm sorry~""

(I'm sorry.)

The two and one animal apologized dejectedly.

"I told you not to drink it for a reason. It wasn't good, was it?"

""Not good.""

(I don't like it~)

"Right? Besides, that is something children shouldn't drink. Will you promise me not to taste anything that I say you shouldn't eat or drink from now on?"

""(I promise~)""

Because I don't have to worry about them drinking it anymore, I decided to draw the brandy without a reserve. Ah, before that——

"Feat, come here. Feat gets a reward because you've kept the promise."

(Yay~)

"N?"

At that time, I heard a girlish voice, different from Elena's.

"Huh? Was that perhaps you, Feat?"

(That's right, Niisama. You see, I've learned Telepathy~)

“Ohh!”

It appears that Feat learned the Telepathy.

Similarly to Joule, Feat’s voice is still childish and adorable.

“”Feat!“”

(That’s right~ Allen-chan and Elena-chan, let’s keep being good friends from now on too, okay?)

“”Yeah!“”

(Niisama too, please take care of me.)

“Yeah. Feat, let’s get along.”

I was interrupted by the surprise of Feat’s Telepathy, but I have to reward her before I forget.

“Then, Feat. Are you fine with Cream bread for your reward?”

(Yeah. I love Cream bread~)

“”(Au~)“”

When I rewarded Feat with a Cream bread, Allen, Elena, and Joule looked at me with staggeringly sad eyes.

..... I’m not trying to bully them, but I have to endure~

(Niisama~ I want to eat with everyone.)

Feat said so.

Well, being looked at with such eyes, Feat would have a difficult time eating alone, and above all, I can’t withstand those eyes~

“It can’t be helped. You will have to properly protect the promise next time, okay?”

“”(Yeah.)“”

While the children were eating the Cream bread, I drew plenty of the brandy.

## **Chapter 85**

Dungeon of Ripples – Boss

“Alright, this floor is the last one~”

“”Last one~“”

(Where is the boss I wonder~)

(Maybe that way~?)

We easily finished capturing the twenty-ninth floor and finally stormed into the last floor of the dungeon, the thirtieth floor.

""((There it is~))""

And before long, we found the door of the boss room.

Promptly touching the door of the room and entering, what we came into was a coast-like place.

""Sea~?""

"Looks like it~"

A place with seawater that reached my knees. Because I see foreshore on my left, the right is most likely an open sea.

While observing the surroundings, a light fired from the open sea. That is the sign of the boss appearing.

"Shall we have Allen and Elena get on Joule? Joule, take care of them please."

""Yes~""

(Yeah, come up~)

(Niisama~ Do I fly by myself~?)

"That would be for the best. But, Feat is the only one without the mermaid bracelet, so be careful of the water, okay?"

(Yeah.)

While organizing the battle preparations, the light gradually settled down.

When the light completely settled, a huge squid of several meters in size appeared. On the contrary to my Kraken expectations, it was a monster called Little Kraken.

Yeah, it's not little at all, isn't it!? Ah, but normal Kraken would be several times the size, so little is not wrong?

"Kii ヽヽヽヽヽ!!"

"Wind Cutter."

When I immediately fired Wind Cutter towards the Little Kraken, its leg got cut off.

"Ehh!?"

""Ohh~""

(They regrew~)

(Wow~)

However, the Little Kraken's leg regrew in a blink of an eye. The leg which was cut off is still floating on the water surface though.....

"Next, Allen~! ——"Water Jet."

Allen's magic hit the Little Kraken and plucked off one of its legs. But, the Little Kraken's leg immediately grew back.

"Next, Elena! ——Water Jet."

Same thing happened to Elena who followed up after Allen.

(Woah. They are regrowing one after another, aren't they~)

(Yup, it's endless.)

Joule and Feat looked at the Little Kraken in amazement.

(Niisama, wouldn't it be better for us to attack all at once and finish it in one go?)

(An all-out attack? Ohh, that seems fun. Oniichan, I approve!)

"Indeed, I don't know to what degree it can regenerate itself, so bringing it down in one go sounds good..... then, let's prepare."

""((Okay~))""

The Little Kraken's regeneration ability is troublesome, so I decided for Feat's proposal which was to bring it down with a simultaneous all-out attack.

"Let's go — One, two, go. Wind Cutter."

""Water Jet."

(Water Jet.)

(Wind Cutter.)

——Bang!

Everyone's magic hit the Little Kraken and an outrageously loud noise resounded.

A massive amount of seawater flew into the air, a torrential rain obstructed the vision at the place where the Little Kraken was. Like this, I'm unable to confirm the Little Kraken's status.

When the seawater rain subsided, what I saw was a worn-out state of the Little Kraken. The Little Kraken sunk into the sea just like that.

""(Defeated~))""

(That was too quick.)

After a short while, drop items drifted towards us.

A blue magic stone, Little Kraken's meat, and squid ink. Strangely, the three separated legs of the Little Kraken floated to us without disappearing as well. Moreover, they are bigger than me.

…………

Little Kraken's Leg

Squid tentacle. Edible.

Moderately elastic with a chewy texture.

…………

…… It seems to be edible.

It's not larger just by a little bit, but does it have the characteristic food texture of tentacles?

Rather, I'm curious about the tentacles too, but now's the status time! I have not confirmed my status since meeting with Kaiser after all. I feel a bit worried~ Mainly about the level difference between me and the children.....

…………

## **Status**

Name: Takumi Kayano

Race: Human? (Wind God's retainer)

Occupation: Magician

Age: 20

Level: 29

## **Skills**

- Light Magic 71
- Dark Magic 74
- Wind Magic 171
- Water Magic 67
- Fire Magic 50
- Space Magic 120
- Life Magic 131
- Swordsmanship 54
- Dagger Technique 2
- Throwing 52
- Appraisal 214
- Dismantling 121
- Familiars 47
- Taming 33
- Swimming 15

- Cooking 129
- Sewing 23
- Washing 13
- Cleaning 31
- Crafting 39
- Gathering 69
- Arithmetics 109
- Reading 127
- Concealment 49
- Detection 55
- Oracle 21
- Telepathy 15
- Clarity 5
- Trap Dismantling 4
- Abnormal Status Resistance 300
- Mental Status Resistance 300
- Physical Attack Resistance 300
- Magic Attack Resistance 300
- Titles
- Transmigrated From a Different World
- Blessed by the God of Creation, Marianora
- Friend of Wind God Sylphreel
- Savior
- Conqueror of Low-Grade Dungeon
- Monster Contractor
- A-Rank Adventurer
- Receiver of the Water Dragon King's Divine Protection
- Food Evangelist
- Conqueror of Intermediate-Grade Dungeon

### Contracted Beasts

- Fenrir (Joule)
- Thunderhawk (Bolt)
- Celestial Tiger (Feat)
- Leviathan (Kaiser)(Temporary)
- Scarlet King Leo (Vector)

呵呵呵

Hmm..... level 29, huh..... it's raising favorably, but Allen's and Elena's level is..... yeah, as I thought..... level 30..... they have overtaken me.....

Un, I thought so..... most of the monsters in this dungeon were defeated by Allen and Elena. It's only the natural result..... haah.....

My level was lower than Joule's and Feat's when we met. But, I surpassed them once. However, Joule caught up before I noticed again. Feat's level is just under me, she's level 28.

umm, next is..... oh! I got new skills. Dagger Technique, Clarity and Trap Dismantling.

I have completely forgotten about the Fire Magic I received from the Fire God. I'm not using it at all.

Next is..... wha!? Those titles-!!

“Conqueror of Intermediate-Grade Dungeon” was expected, but~ The hell is “Food Evangelist”!?

Just when did I obtain such title!

..... Although I say that, it's a title I vaguely understand why I obtained it. I mean, a God has been delighted about the cooking development, so getting a title wouldn't be strange, right?

While received the shocks from the status contents——creaking sounds echoed, and a door in the deepest part of the room opened.

“Onii~cha~n.”

“Opened~”

“Thank you. Then, shall we go everyone?”

“”((Yes~))””

There was a room in the deepest part that was more luxurious than the one on the twentieth and tenth floors.

“”Treasure~””

(Let's open it~)

(What's inside, I'm looking forward to it~)

Just like in the Earth Dungeon, a treasure chest appeared. It's possible that it's a reward for the first capture of an undiscovered dungeon.

“Then, I'm opening it~”

“”What is it~?””

(A sword, isn't it?)

(It's big~)

What was inside the treasure chest was a sword the size of an adult.

“..... This, what to do with it?”

It's a splendid sword without a doubt. It's similar to a magic sword with fire magic sealed inside.

No matter how much effort I would put it, this doesn't look like something I could manage to handle.

(Niisama, you are not taking it?)

""It~?""

(Yeah~ you are not taking it~?)

Feat tilted her head in wonder at me who didn't collect the sword right away. Following her, Allen and Elena made the same gesture. Moreover, even Joule reacted excessively.

"N? It's a good sword, but it's not usable for me~ I was just taking a look. Well, it's a sword gained by capturing a dungeon, so I will take it regardless whether I can use it or not——eh, huh?"

Even though I already stored the sword in the Infinite Storage, the treasure chest didn't disappear.

""N?""

(What, what~?)

(Niisama, what's the matter~?)

"..... Perhaps."

The treasure chest this time wasn't made from wood like the ones we encountered on the way, but it was made from metal while decorated with jewels, it was a bit extravagant chest.

When I tried storing it in the Infinite Storage as a test——

"Ah~"

I was able to collect it.

Apparently, this treasure chest is also treasure-ish? I don't know uses treasure chests could have, but I decided to take it.

"Shall we return?"

""Yea!""

"Because there might be people on the first floor, this is it for Joule and Feat."

(I see~ too bad. Oniichan, call me soon again, okay?)

(Niisama, summon me again as well, okay?)

"Of course. See you next time."

""See you~""

Joule and Feat returned to my shadow and I took Allen and Elena to the transfer device.

Until now, we would be forcibly transferred as soon as we touched the transfer device, but it was different this time.

I felt like I had the option to choose a destination in mind—the hall on the first floor, deep inside the tenth floor, and the innermost place of the twentieth floor.

Indeed, this is the first time that the destination of the transfer isn't fixed and it's possible to choose from multiple destinations.

““Where~?””

It seems that the choice to choose the destination conveyed to Allen and Elena as well.

“Let's see. Then, let's try going to the twentieth floor for a moment.”

““Twenti~eth!””

When we recognized the twentieth floor as the destination, unique dizziness from the transfer assaulted me.

And the next moment, we have appeared in a different room from the room on the thirtieth floor.

I see a waterfall on the other side, so this is without the doubt the twentieth floor.

“Then, let's return this time.”

““Yea!””

“Allen, Elena. The first floor is next, okay?”

““Yeah, first floor~!””

Confirming that they could transfer safely, I touched the transfer device again and returned to the hall on the first floor.

There were several people in the hall and it got a little noisy after we appeared after using the transfer device, but we left behind the dungeon just like that and returned to the town of Bailey.

## Chapter 86

Reunion

"Yo~ Takumi!"

"Long time no see. It has been a month and a half wasn't it, Takumi-san."

"Ehhhh-!?"

When we returned to the Risner mansion after capturing the dungeon, there were people I didn't think I would meet.

And that was precisely the Captain of the Shirin's Knights Order Wald-sama and Cedric-san's little brother, the Vice-Captain Isaac.

"Were you pipsqueaks also well~"

"Allen-kun, Elena-san, hello. How have you been?"

"Well~"

While I was feeling surprised, Wald-sama and Isaac-san spoke with Allen and Elena.

Whether it was because Allen and Elena were fairly acquainted with them, they answered normally.

"Nonono!! W, why are Wald-sama and Isaac-san here!?"

"That's cruel of you, Takumi-san. This is my hometown, you know? It's not strange to be here, right?"

"N, no..... that's true but....."

This is certainly Isaac-san's hometown so it's not strange for him to be here.....

Does he perhaps have a vacation or something? But it would be strange for him to be with Wald-sama if that was the case.

In the first place, did Cedric-san know that the two are going to come?

"To surprise Takumi-san to this extent it was worthwhile having the horses run fast with a strict schedule, wasn't it~"

"That is so. It's always Takumi who is giving surprises."

"....."

They have apparently come a long way from Shirin on horses all the way here, to Bailey.

That's right, isn't it? If that wasn't the case, it would be strange for them to arrive at this town in a few days. I'm sure they let the horses run at a quite quick pace.

It's just, to be that delighted from being able to surprise me, this is somehow..... frustrating.....

I don't know when they returned because we were in the dungeon until just a moment ago. Even if they have just arrived and are tired, I have already lost the feelings of apprehension.

“So, why are you here?”

First of all, I asked for the reason why Wald-sama and Isaac-san are here.

“To pick you up, Takumi!”

“Haah!?”

Then, Wald-sama returned a reply I couldn't comprehend.

To pick me up? Why?

“Wald-sama, please stop omitting the explanation.”

“..... Umm, Isaac-san, what's going on? Ah! Also, I'm sorry. I've used Isaac-san's first name for my own convenience.”

“Ah, don't worry about the name. Calling me Risner while staying at Risner House would be inconvenient. Rather, there's no need for the honorifics so I wouldn't mind if you called me just Isaac.”

“Ou, I also won't mind if you throw away the honorifics with me!”

“No..... that's a bit.....”

I felt relieved that I got Isaac-san's permission to use his first name. Even though I knew that Isaac-san wouldn't be angry, using a noble's name over-familiarly without permission is more or less considered as resistance. Only for Wald-sama to jump on along the way.....

Cedric-san was like this too but as I thought, not using honorifics is impossible.

Also, Wald-sama is more fitting to be addressed as Wald-sama, isn't he~

“So, what do you mean by picking me up?”

I recover and request an explanation from Isaac-san.

“On this occasion, we have been transferred to the capital duty.”

“Is that so?”

Capital duty? What relation does Wald-sama's and Isaac-san's capital duty have with picking me up?

“Yeah, although the plan was to transfer all along, it was hastened a bit.”

“..... Umm?”

“I'm told there was a person who discovered a new dungeon in Bailey and His Majesty wants to meet that person. However, that person dislikes standing out you see. If His Majesty issues an edict to summon him to the castle it will gather attention whether he likes it or not, so we would like to avoid it if possible.”

“.....”

It's a story about their transfer..... while thinking such, the topic abruptly changed. However, His Majesty is..... the King, right? Eh? That means we were summoned by the King?

"Because of that, we were ordered to request you to come to the capital with us as your acquaintances. Acting like guards while at it, we will move to the capital. It's basically killing two birds with one stone. Well~ I'm glad we arrived at Bailey before Takumi-san departed."

"....."

I don't already know what's what.....

Erm..... I have no obligation to come to the capital but this already has a feeling of being half obligation, doesn't it?

Well, I intended to visit the capital eventually, so I don't mind going. I don't mind but..... I will be meeting the King, huh.

Hmm, meeting the King and confirming his character wouldn't be that bad? Somehow, I feel that way would be better for the future.

"Allen, Elena. We will have to go to a different town but..... do you mind?"

""Nniyu? Together with Onii~chan~?""

"We will go together~"

"Then, Allen will go too~"

"Elena will go too~"

Both Allen and Elena consented on going to the capital.

"When are we departing?"

"Are you okay with it?"

"Yeah, I had plans to go to the capital. If you tell me "we are departing tomorrow" that would be impossible though."

"We have just arrived and we need to rest so you don't have to worry about that."

The departure appears not to be fixed yet but we will be soon leaving for the capital.

"By the way, can you ride a horse, Takumi-san?"

"Ah~..... I'm sorry, I can't."

Ah, right. Going together with Wald-sama and Isaac-san means that we can't move on Joule and others.....

What to do~ I could ride on Joule or Feat without problems but as expected, I don't know how to manipulate horse with reins. Should I expose the existence of Joule and others.....

Perhaps they have already heard about Joule from Cedric-san but..... Cedric-san should be recognizing Joule and Feat as Fenrir and Celestial Tiger children. He most likely didn't consider moving while on their backs.

"What? Takumi, you can't ride a horse? Should I teach you then?"

While being troubled, Wald-sama made such a proposal.

Ah, I see. There was also the horseback riding practice hand. It will be impossible to ride fast but I will be able to normally manage if I obtain the Horseback Riding skill. The current me might be able to do it before long.

"Wald-sama, may I ask you to instruct me on horseback riding?"

"Oh, sure. Leave it to me."

Even if I can't obtain the skill, it would be good to get some horseback riding experience.

There might be more cases where I won't be able to call Joule and others after all.

"I don't know whether I will be able to manage in time so I'm unable to decide on the means of travel at the moment but....."

"Yeah, that's fine. We have not decided on the departure yet, if there will be a need for a carriage, we can just use our family's one."

Even if I become able to ride a horse, there's still a problem of whether I will be able to ride together with Allen and Elena. As I thought, would it be impossible to ride with both?

If that were the case, should I ask Wald-sama and Isaac-san to whom they have attached themselves to an extent?

Well, it won't be late to ask once I become able to do it. First of all, let's practice so I can ride.

## **Chapter 87**

Souvenir

"Uncle~ I'm entering~?"

After making a determination to go to the capital and just deciding on the horseback riding practice, Theodore-kun and Latis-kun entered the room.

"Takumi-san, Allen-kun, Elena-chan, welcome back~"

"Welcome back~"

“Theodore-kun, Latis-kun, we are back.”

““Are back~””

The two who entered the room saw us and rushed over.

“How was the dungeon?”

“Please let us hear about it!”

And they asked about the stories from the dungeon.

“When we have the time, okay? Rather than that, didn’t you have a business with Isaac-san?”

“That’s not it. We heard Takumi-san and the children are here so.”

It appears that Theodore-kun and Latis-kun didn’t enter the room because they have business with Isaac-san, but because they were looking for us.

“Nevertheless, you understood well that we were here.”

“We asked the servants to inform us immediately after Takumi-san’s return!”

Ou..... these children, they are doing the same thing as Cedric-san.....

Cedric-san is on a town scale while the children are on the mansion scale. There’s no doubt they are the little versions of their father. As expected of parents-children connected by blood.

“Oh my, oh my, you are parent and children, aren’t you? These children are doing the same thing Elder brother does, don’t they?”

It seems Isaac-san knows Cedric-san’s ways. He’s looking at his nephews exhaustedly. But, I feel the same ideology from Isaac-san though.....

“..... Isaac, you do it too though.”

While thinking such, Wald-sama weakly muttered to himself. As I thought, Isaac-san is doing the same.

“Theodore, Latis too, isn’t it currently your study time?”

“I have just finished!”

“Me too.”

I see. Because their studies finished, they came to ask about the stories from the dungeon. The two said that they love adventure stories. I don’t mind talking about it, but rather than that——

“Then, we got something amusing in the dungeon, want to play with that?”

“Really!..”

“Yay~”

“Somewhere more spacious would be better but.....”

“Let’s go to the practice field! Takumi-san, quickly, quickly!”

“Allen-kun, Elena-chan too, quickly!”

“Oh! Don’t rush so much.....”

Urged on by Theodore-kun and Latis-kun, we arrived at the practice field.

There were several knights on the practice field, so when they moved to aside not to get in the way, I took out the soapy bubbles we obtained from Bubble Archelon.

“Wow! What is that!”

“So soft~”

The soapy bubbles remain for a while than naturally break in case the Bubble Archelon escapes. Also, in case the Bubble Archelon is defeated, the soapy bubbles will disappear the moment it’s defeated.

But however, the soapy bubbles stored in my Infinite Storage remained even after the Bubble Archelons were defeated.

Moreover, they won’t break no matter what. It didn’t burst even when I tried stabbing a knife into it.

Therefore, it became a firm but soft, light rubber balloon.

“Try lightly hitting it with your hand while facing us.”

“Like this? ——There!”

When Theodore-kun slaps the balloon——poyon, the balloon floated and flew towards us.

“Allen. Hit it towards Latis-kun just as it is. Lightly, okay?”

“Yes~”

When Allen hit the floating balloon, it flew towards Latis-kun this time.

“Latis-kun, hit it towards Elena next.”

“Yes! ——There!”

“Nice! Elena, towards Theodore-kun next, okay?”

“Yess.”

Understanding the way to play, the children hit the balloon one after another.

“They are playing with something amusing~ Takumi, what’s that?”

Wald-sama who tagged along with us to the practice field showed interest in the Bubble Archelon's soapy bubble the children were playing with. This world has many plants, monsters, and mysterious materials, but something like rubber hasn't spread around, so they must find it curious.

"That's the foam? that Bubble Archelon releases, isn't it?"

"Haah!? Wait a moment! That foam which bursts on touch? Why is it staying in shape!"

"Well~ it was in the way when we were defeating it, so I tried to store it in my Infinite Storage, but it stayed in the Infinite Storage even after defeating it and turned out like that when I took it out~ it didn't break even after trying to pierce it with sharp tools, so I thought there wouldn't be a problem to play with it."

"That means that you have defeated a Bubble Archelon, doesn't it? They normally escape!"

"..... That's a Takumi-san like method of defeating it, isn't it?"

When I convey how we defeated the Bubble Archelon, Wald-sama and Isaac-san looked at me tiredly.

No I mean, if I am to tidy up the soapy bubbles that cover my field of vision, storing them into the Infinite Storage would be fastest~

"Takumi, if you still have some, lend me one."

"Ah, yes."

When I retrieved one soapy bubble and handed it over to Wald-sama, both Wald-sama and Isaac-san started to touch it and inspecting it.

"..... It really won't break."

When Wald-sama grabbed the soapy bubble in both of his hands and put strength into it, it only changed shape but didn't break.

"To only deform after Captain grabbed it with all of his strength..... it's quite durable, isn't it? It looks like a usable material. Researchers would be charmed."

"Right. Oy, Takumi. Do you have a lot?"

"Well, I have a reasonable amount. Do you know the approximate amount of soapy bubbles Bubble Archelon releases when being confronted? Not in the accurate meaning but an estimation."

"Yeah."

"if you multiply it by ten-odd times, can you understand the quantity?"

"..... Yeah. I understand that you have quite a lot."

Precisely. I have quite a lot of soapy bubbles in the Infinite Storage.

When encountering Bubble Archelon, it will release these bubbles without a doubt. And I collected them every time, didn't I~

"Takumi-san, could you possibly sell us some?"

"I will give them to you?"

"That's no good. Because it's for research purposes. If we don't properly pay here, it would become troublesome if we find a useful utility. I don't think that would happen with Takumi-san as a partner, but it's not good to break the premise."

I see. If the material's owner isn't properly confirmed, once its use is found, a dispute over the profits would occur.

I think it would change ownership to whomever I "gave" it to, but there would be people who would argue, wouldn't there~

"If that's the case, I understand. Shall I leave the decision about its value to you?"

"Thank you very much. For the time being, I would be happy if you could give me a couple now and a few once we are in the capital."

"I have quite a lot, so there's no problem——oops."

While talking with Isaac-san about the soapy bubbles, I felt a light impact from behind.

"N? Allen and Elena? What's the matter?"

"Together."

"Let's play~"

"Takumi-san, this is amusing. Uncle~ How about Uncle too?"

"Wald-sama, let's have a contest!"

The four children who were playing by themselves came to invite us. Latis-kun challenged Wald-sama to a match.

"What to do?"

I said while glancing at Wald-sama and Isaac-san.

"Alright! Pipsqueaks, I will keep you company!"

"That's right. One should occasionally keep the children company."

Eventually, it turned out to four children VS Wald-sama, and Wald-sama played with the children until the day got dark.

## Chapter 88

Evening Drink

We were joined by Wald-sama and Isaac-san on that day's dinner, it was very lively.

For dinner, we had scallops that had the appearances of razor clam and turban shell called Yard shellfish with butter and soy sauce, fish meuniére seasoned with curry spice and vegetable sticks with mayonnaise.

The chef of the Risner House Ryan-san repeated trial and error until he gradually started increasing the size of the menu.

Wald-sama and Isaac-san who have never seen such dishes were surprised.

I thought Cedric-san would let them know in a letter, but it appears he bragged only until the jelly. The reason for that was a letter about the newly discovered dungeon, Wald-sama and Isaac-san have been then contacted by the capital, leading them to quickly depart from Shirin.

And, they have arrived in Bailey just today.

So that means, as I thought, Cedric-san knew that Wald-sama and Isaac-san were coming here.

"So good~"

"It's very delicious."

The two were very satisfied with the new dishes.

And, after that, only the adults were left behind for a few drinks.

"Ou, are the pipsqueaks alright~?"

"Well, somehow..... they were a bit grumpy though."

Adults only, meaning that Allen and Elena aren't here. I somehow persuaded them and put them to sleep in the room we are borrowing.

Just in case, I summoned Joule and others and had them sleep together with Allen and Elena.

"They basically cling to you after all~"

"It can't be helped considering the environment and circumstances they were brought up in though. But, they became able to be separated from you in a little period of time like this, so I'm certainly seeing that they are growing up little by little."

It's as Isaac-san said, although it's little by little, I think that Allen and Elena are properly growing up.

The two should have been in a terrible environment. Despite that, those children are growing pure and obedient. That is very joyous.

"The environment they were brought up in, is it?"

Ah, I haven't told Allen's and Elena's past to Cedric-san yet.

"Allen and Elena were orphans and they have been in a rather bad environment."

"Was that so..... Then, they are not related by blood with Takumi-san....."

Cedric-san was surprised from the bottom of his heart, that's what I felt.

Does it mean he saw us as a genuine family? That is wonderful!

"Takumi and the twins are so like family that blood relations are irrelevant after all!"

Then, Wald-sama affirmed just what I was thinking about.

"Wald-sama, thank you very much. I'm very happy hearing you say that."

"I see, I see! Here, Takumi. You usually don't drink much, right? Drink and drink today!"

"That's true. Ah, right. Won't you try drinking this?"

I took out several bottles of the brandy I drew in the dungeon.

On the way back, I saw stylish bottles in a store we happened to pass, so I bought them and transferred the brandy from the cask into them.

"N? What's that?"

"Takumi-san, this is?"

"It's alcohol. I think it probably is a rare one but."

"What!? A rare alcohol! Let's drink it at once."

When I conveyed that it is rare alcohol, Wald-sama rejoiced and immediately picked up the bottle and poured the brandy into glasses.

"What a beautiful color. It's similar to the ale but..... it's something different, isn't it? The fragrance is different."

"That's right. I haven't smelled such fragrance before."

"This is an alcohol called brandy."

"I have never heard of it."

"Yeah."

Judging by the reaction, as I thought, brandy is not alcohol that appears on the market.

"So good."

"This is quite strong alcohol, isn't it?"

"Indeed."

The four of us promptly drank the brandy, but drinking it straight is indeed intense. I wish I had prepared ice~

However, it seems it suited their tastes, so the reaction was quite favorable.

"This alcohol might be too strong to drink as is. This is an alcohol that drinks little by little after diluting it with water or putting in ice."

"I think it's fine as it is, but such way of drinking also doesn't sound bad."

"I see, cooling it with ice would change the taste."

"That's so, isn't it? I will prepare the ice."

Oh, ice can be easily prepared, I see~ Although there seem to be refrigerator and freezer magic tools, they should cost quite a large sum. Well, this is the mansion of the feudal lord after all. They surely have it.

Or are there cold rooms or something? That, or people who can make it with ice magic?

Let's have Joule make ice water and store it in the Infinite Storage..... N? No, freezing the water with life magic's Freeze should be good enough?

Speaking of ice, I would like to make shaved ice or ice cream. It's still warm so it should be fine as the children's snack. Ah~ but I have no tool for shaving ice. It seems that patience would be needed if shaving with a knife.

Ice cream should be alright? Ice cream can be made by mixing egg yolks with sugar and cream and thoroughly stirring while freezing.

Pudding should be fine too since it has similar ingredients? Steaming time, the amount of milk and the firmness would need adjustments, but I should be able to do it with a few trial and errors.

"Takumi, where does this alcohol come from?"

While thinking about making new snacks, Wald-sama asked about the alcohol's producing area? No, a store I bought it from?

"N? Ah, this is something that springs out in the Dungeon of Ripples."

When I honestly answered thinking that there's no need to hide it——

""Haah?""

The surprised voices of the three people overlapped.

"Incidentally, it's on the twenty-eight floor."

""Haaah!?""

Their voices overlapped again. The three are perfectly in sync, aren't they~

"Wait a moment! Twenty-eight floor, you say? I'm certain I heard that this dungeon has thirty floors but, perhaps....."

"N? If it's about the capture then we already finished? The boss was a Little Kraken."

""""Haaaaah!""""

Yep, they really are on the same wavelength.

"Oyoyoy! Are you saying you have captured the newly discovered dungeon in such a short term! Moreover, a Little Kraken? Are you saying you defeated that!?"

"Well, yeah."

Wald-sama looked at me with tired eyes.

"Haah....."

"Takumi-san....."

Isaac-san and Cedric-san sighed deeply.

I wonder what is it, this reaction..... isn't it too cruel?

"By the way, Takumi-san. Do you still have some of this alcohol?"

"N? Ah, yes. I have drawn as much as I could, so I do have a reasonable amount?"

"Then, how about offering it to His Majesty when you go to the capital?"

"Eh!? An offering, is it? This alcohol?"

"Yes, I think it's a satisfactory article. It's a taste we haven't experienced before. I will prepare a worthy bottle."

Huh? Did Cedric-san tell me to present it just now?

Come to think of it, he sent a letter about the dungeon discovery before, but I feel like I heard that the feudal lord which is Cedric-san has to report to the capital personally..... is he not going?

"Didn't Cedric-san have plans to go to the capital as well?"

"Yes, it was decided that Isaac will attend the audience as my proxy."

"I'm also Risner after all."

"Because you will have the audience together, it would be better for Takumi-san to present the offering."

Ah, so it has been arranged like that~ Indeed, if Isaac-san is going to the capital for an audience, there's no need for Cedric-san to expressly go too~

"Isn't it fine to leave it for later. Let's drink now~"

"Seriously, Captain is....."

"Well, Isaac. It's as Ruven-dono said, it's not something to talk about while drinking, let's talk about this at a later."

"..... You are right."

"Hahaha~"

We decided to enjoy the alcohol for now because of Wald-sama's complaint and decided to make the arrangements another day.

## **Chapter 89**

Horseback Riding

"Good morning."

"Ou, morning, Takumi. You don't seem to be hungover."

"Yes, I'm fine."

I drank quite a lot last night, but I didn't become hungover. The alcohol was considerably strong though. Whether it's thanks to the body Syl made or the Abnormal Status Resistance skill, that I don't know.....

Well, at any rate, I won't be showing a disgraceful behavior anymore after drinking, so if you ask if I feel relieved, then yes.

"Wald-sama seems to be fine as well. Even though you drank so much....."

"I could easily do double of that."

Wald-sama drank so much alcohol I couldn't even compare myself to him. And yet, he's without any signs of a hangover.

"Good morning."

"Good morning. Takumi-san, Captain is a bottomless drinker, so it's not necessary to worry about him."

I see. Wald-sama is "someone who can drink like a fish" huh.....

While not to the extent of Wald-sama, Cedric-san and Isaac-san should have drunk quite a lot too. And yet it seems that they don't have any problems. These two must be rather strong with alcohol too.

No, the current me is not an exception. Far from being able to drink like a fish, I "might" be a fish.

"Here, you two sit down on a chair."

""Muu~""

On the other hand, Allen and Elena whom I have separated for the night have been clinging to me from the moment they opened their eyes. And presently, they are glued to my legs. Solidly at that.

I might have separated from them after putting them to sleep, but I have returned while they were sleeping though~ It seems even that was no good.

"Oh? From the looks of it, they must have been quite lonely last night."

"Looks like it. Allen-kun, Elena-san. We have prepared French toasts, so cheer up please."

"N? Furenh toasts?"

As if Isaac-san has been expecting this situation, he was somewhat able to loosen the children's expressions.

It appears he discussed this smart move with Cedric-san and had the two's favorite French toasts prepared for the breakfast.

Rather, Isaac-san seems to be showing a greater interest in the French toasts than the children though.....

After Allen and Elena ate the French toasts which were matched with fruit jelly, their moods somewhat returned to normal.

Taking such two with me, I went with Wald-sama and Isaac-san to the practice field.

I was asked about today's plans during the breakfast, but when I replied with "nothing in particular," we have decided to practice the horseback riding at once.

When we arrived at the practice field, I decided to summon Joule and others for the future's sake and introduce them to Wald-sama and Isaac-san. Of course, everyone except Bolt were in their small forms.

"Oh, those are Takumi's contracted beasts?"

They immediately caught Wald-sama's interest.

"Joule and Bolt!"

"Kyan."

"Pii."

Allen introduced Joule and Bolt,

"Feat and Vector~"

"Naa~"

"Garu."

while Elena introduced Feat and Vector to Wald-sama and Isaac-san.

The introduced contracted beasts cheerfully replied in turns.

"If I'm not mistaken, they are Fenrir, Celestial Tiger, Scarlett King Leo, and Thunderhawk, right..... They might not be adults yet, but to gather so many monsters of such ranks....."

"O, ou..... they seem extremely smart and considerably obedient too. It's my first time seeing contracted beasts, but are all contracted beasts like that?"

"By no means. Even though they are contracted, they are still monsters, so they will threaten anyone who approaches them with the exception of their contractor. Otherwise, they will show no interest and stay indifferent. Showing such a friendly attitude like this should be quite unusual."

"Our children are very smart, so I don't think they would threaten people we introduce them to. Well, playing pranks is a different thing though."

If unknown people approached our children without permission, I do think that they would threaten them.

Besides, they would play pranks on them and I can't deny the possibility of counterattacking a threat.

(Everyone, the red-haired man is Wald-sama and the silver-haired man is Isaac-san. They will be moving with us from now on, so be sure to remember them.)

(Un, got it~)

(Yes~ Niisama, Bolt and Vector are saying they 'Understood~' too.)

When I tell everyone to remember Wald-sama and Isaac-san via telepathy, Joule and Feat who are able to use telepathy replied. Feat even conveyed Bolt's and Vector's words.

"If the other party does something first, it will be taken as legitimate self-defense and there won't be a need for Takumi-san to bear any responsibility, but in cases like these, I request you not to kill the other party."

"I understand. Everyone does too, right?"

"Kyan."

"Nnaa~"

"Pii."

"Garu."

I think it will be all right as I have told them to act without killing during the bandit subjugation, but when I reminded them just in case, all four animals replied in acknowledgment.

“..... They really understand what we are saying, don’t they?”

“Yeah, they properly understand.”

Isaac-san started seriously examining Joule and others.

“Uoh!”

At that time, Vector started playfully coiling between Wald-sama’s feet.

Surprised by Vector’s actions, Wald-sama raised his voice.

“Hey, Vector. Come back and be obedient, alright?”

“Garu~”

“Uoh~ that startled me~”

“Sorry about that.”

“No, I don’t mind. Rather than that, Takumi. We should begin soon.”

When Vector separated from Wald-sama’s feet, Wald-sama called for a stable boy? that was holding the reins of a Dapple-gray horse, and he received the reins from him.

“We will use this horse for practice.”

“She’s a mare, isn’t she? Wald-sama, what is her name?”

“She seems to be called Caterina. She is apparently this mansion’s most docile horse.”

I made eye contact with Caterina and stared. Then, Caterina lightly lowered her head.

Because I somewhat felt like Caterina was telling me “pet me,” I approached her and when I tried to gently pet her forehead, Caterina let herself be petted without disliking it, so I apparently met her demand.

“I heard that she’s a docile horse, but to let her guard down this quickly..... if it’s like this, you might manage to get on her quickly too.”

“Really? That would be nice.”

Wald-sama presented me the reins, so I received them and moved to Caterina’s side.

“Fufu. Does it feel good?”

Caterina was a really friendly horse as she told me who moved to her side to pet her neck some more.

“Alright! Then, Takumi, try getting on.”

“.....”

No, try getting on, you say..... I don't know the way of getting on though.....

"Captain..... you would normally explain the way of getting on here."

It seems that Isaac-san who was observing Joule and others heard Wald-sama's words, so he interrupted while looking at Wald-sama exhaustedly.

I know, right? There's no way the explanation would end with "then, try getting on" right?

"Ohh, that's right. Well, that. Put one of your legs in the stirrup and get on with a heave-ho feeling!"

"".....""

Ehh? Is that all? Is the explanation over? Wouldn't it be impossible to get on with just that? It's not that my comprehension is insufficient, right?

When I turned towards Isaac-san intending to confirm, Isaac-san placed his hand on his forehead as if his head was hurting and hung his head. Wald-sama's explanation was completely no good, wasn't it?

Yeah, asking Wald-sama to teach me might have been a failure in itself.

"Takumi-san, I will be guiding you from here on out."

"Isaac-san, please."

Isaac-san who recovered told me he will be instructing me now, so I gratefully accepted.

"What!? Why!?"

"Everyone, Wald-sama said he will play with you, so be sure to keep him company with all you've got, okay~"

""Yes~""

"Kyan."

"Nnaa."

"Pii."

"Garun♪"

After that, we ignored Wald-sama who was shouting in protest and the children who were slightly further away started charging at Wald-sama as soon as they were told.

"Whoaa! Wa, wait a moment~!"

The children would be bored just by watching my horseback riding practice after all. They would have fun if Wald-sama played with them.

"Like this, the children won't be bored. We will get in the way of the children's playing here, shall we move away a bit?"

“Let’s do that.”

Isaac-san nodded to my good judgment too, so we moved out of the way a little after urging Caterina.

After that, I have received Isaac-san’s guidance and his coaching was very easy to understand. How to mount a horse, where to hold the saddle, to be cautious not to pull on the reins, he gave me precise instructions. Thanks to that, I was able to safely obtain Horseback Riding skill.

Next, I tried riding while placing the children in front of me and we were able to safely ride together if it’s only one of them. If I practice several times more, I will be able to receive an authorization to move on the horse all the way to the capital.

That being the case, we have decided to move to the capital not on the carriage but on horseback instead, but as I thought, letting both Allen and Elena on would be impossible. I have to think measures for that, but..... would it be all right if it’s Isaac-san~?

Well, let’s think about it carefully.

## **Chapter 90**

### Shopping

The horseback riding practice was over by this morning. Isaac-san told me that it would be better to train some ten-odd minutes every day rather than trying to learn all at once.

Come to think of it, I think I heard that inner thighs and butt hurt while horseback riding, but I didn’t have such a problem..... Was it perhaps thanks to the Physical Attack Resistance? Although it’s not an attack, there’s no doubt that the grazing is caused by a physical thing, right?

Well, at any rate, I’m glad it saved me from any physical abnormality.

In the afternoon, I went to get the furniture I ordered.

A table and chairs big enough to use as a kitchen table for meals, a stool for Allen and Elena, beds, etc. I have ordered everything essential that came to mind and all of that is completed, so I came to get it and pay.

After that, I went to the Fiji Company. When I entered inside, the branch manager immediately rushed out from inside.

"If this isn't Takumi-sama. Welcome, welcome."

I saw one shop assistant run in panic deeper inside the store when we entered, he must have gone to inform branch manager.

"Hello. For Branch Manager-san to come out expressly for me, thank you very much."

"No, no, Takumi-sama is this store's important customer. It's my privilege to keep you company. So, what kind of business do you have with us today? Did you perhaps encounter inconvenience because of that spice matter?"

"No, I left the decisions about the spice matter to Cedric-san, so I have no problems..... I was thinking if it were possible for me to see the goods in the warehouse today again. Sorry for the sudden request."

The reason I came here is because I heard that Kahee beans are imported from Serdik and other countries, so I thought of getting as much as I can.

When I came to this company the last time, we realized that the ship I recovered from the mermaid village was Fiji Company's, so because of that, I saw only one part of the warehouse.

"Ohh! If that's the case, I don't mind at all."

I'm glad. Last time, we were shown to the warehouse because we came with Cedric-san and others. I thought there would be a possibility of being rejected if it's just us, but it seems he will guide us inside.

"Takumi-sama, do you perhaps have an interest in imported goods like the Kahee beans?"

"Yeah, that's exactly it. Could you let me see if you have such articles?"

"If that's the case, I will present you the goods centering around such articles. Also, let's see..... How about a few dungeon items that don't usually appear on the market?"

It appears the branch manager properly understands what I desire.

However, there's something else I want to see in this store.

"Also, I'm sorry for the way I put it, but I would like you to show me things that aren't demanded that much."

"Things that aren't demanded, is it?"

Branch Manager-san was making a wondering expression. In addition to 'What is he planning to do with that?' However—

"Yes, something like the soy sauce from before."

Now, the customers wanting to purchase soy sauce increased, but it should have been completely unpopular product before. Even if they are unpopular in this world, there might be products that I would want.

“Ohh! Which reminds me, it was Takumi-sama who identified the way of using soy sauce! I see, I see. I understand. I, Kashim, will take responsibility for showing you the goods!”

The branch manager——Kashim-san must have determined that I was the source of the butter and soy sauce scallops and the soy sauce boom.

Moreover, from his expression, he seems determined and full of expectations of discovering an unpopular product.

“This way first, please.”

Without a delay, Kashim-san guided us to the warehouse and immediately presented the goods.

The first thing he showed me was fruit from Serdik called “Nana fruit”. They were several of lightly curved, long and narrow fruits.

As a matter of fact, Nanas are harvested when they are yellow and unripe, the skin turning red is an indication, and the white insides are eaten.

Most of the fruits here were orange and not ripe yet, but Kashim-san peeled a completely ripe and red one, and let us sample it.

“This is.....”

“”Delish~””

The skin and color are different, but the shape and taste is the same taste of bananas that I know.

Moreover, it was without any grassiness with considerable sugary content, it was good.

“It’s sweet and easy to eat so it’s reasonably popular, but it’s quite difficult to handle. Even though we are careful, we often mistake the ripe period.....”

Kashim-san’s explanation included characteristics that were in the bananas I know as well.

Allen and Elena seem to like Nana fruit too, so I would definitely like to buy them.

“Kashim-san, the Nanas you have here are actually still not completely ripe, but do you still have ripe ones like the one we had just now?”

“Y, yes..... ripe ones are stored in a different storage area, so we have them?”

I see, they have them in a different place. In that case——

“If possible, could you sell me all the ripe ones you have?”

"Takumi-sama, even those here will get spoiled in seven-eight days. The completely ripe ones won't last longer than two or three days. I'm really happy that you want to purchase them but I can't recommend buying them in such large quant.....—!!

Kashim-san suddenly stopped talking and fixedly stared at my face.

"——Infinite Storage."

Kashim-san is aware that I'm able to use the Infinite Storage, so even if I purchase the completely ripe Nana fruits, I won't have to worry about them rotting once I put them inside the Infinite Storage.

"Yes. Therefore, If I had to choose, I think the completely ripe ones would be better."

"Did you say all of them?"

Kashim-san looked at me with expectations.

"I would be troubled if rotting ones were among them though."

"Of course, I have no intentions of handing such things over to Takumi-san..... I have no intention, but are you buying if they are precisely good for eating?"

"Yes."

"P, please! Of course, I will sell it cheaply!"

Oh, it seems he will sell it cheaply.

Well, if he didn't sell it now, the people here would have to eat it themselves or they would have to dispose of it. If you are going to sell that, might as well reduce the price.

After that, he showed me "Koko Fruit" which was a light brown, hard fruit the size of a soccer ball.

There is apparently a whitish liquid similar to milk inside. Therefore, I judged that that's a coconut and the liquid inside is coconut milk.

But, from my memory, the liquid in the palm fruit is transparent——coconut juice and coconut milk is the result of manufacturing, but..... well, let's agree that the thing itself is here.

The children seemed to like the Koko fruit, so I bought some.

I have also bought several dungeon-made products, it was quite a harvest.

"Come to think of it, are you registered in the Merchant's Guild, Takumi-sama?"

"No, I'm not."

"Is that so? Then, may I ask you to register before long? It will still take some time until the curry spices will start selling, but we are going to pay Takumi-sama as soon as they sell."

That reminds me, Cedric-san told me to register in the Merchant's Guild as well.

Once registered, you can receive money in every region of the country through the Merchant's Guild. It's like the bank thing in the Adventurer's Guild.

In my case, the Merchant registration will be added to the Adventurer registration, and the accounts can be apparently merged.

"I understand. I will go and register after this."

"Thank you."

Just a registration will finish immediately, so let's go and register before returning~

## Chapter 91

New Dish

When we returned to the Risner mansion after safely registering at the Merchant's Guild, I went to the kitchen.

Although I provided him with alligator meat as a souvenir..... head chef Ryan-san requested to show him the cooking method as well.

Even though the reason was that Ryan-san has never prepared alligator meat before, I have also used it only two times in the dungeon, so there's not much difference.

If I'm pushed to say, then he is much more interested in what dish I'm going to make rather than the alligator meat itself. He's aspiring to become my apprentice after all.

Well, just pushing the ingredients on him "Here, goodbye" would be bad, so I agreed to make shares only for the Risner House's family, Wald-sama and us including Ryan-san.

"Then Takumi-dono, if I may ask you."

"..... Yeah."

"".....""

I decided to promptly start making the dish in the kitchen I have already used a few times.

"Allen, Elena. Shall we make it then?"

""Make it~""

"What is~?"

"First~?"

Allen and Elena were on my side standing on the stool we got just today, so they were full of enthusiasm to help.

It's just there's Ryan-san and another cook Thor-san peeking from behind them, so I'm a bit worried about that. Well, normal people would be bothered by someone standing behind them, so Allen and Elena who are sensitive to presences will be bothered by it even more.

But, it seems they understand that they mean no harm, so they are concentrating on helping me out.

Now then, what shall we make? N~ how about curry using the alligator meat? Wald-sama and Isaac-san haven't eaten curry yet.

Ah~ but, the feeling of the alligator meat being the main point will disappear.....

Let's see~..... ah! Let's smear the alligator meat in powder and drizzle it with a sweet vinegar sauce. Next, let's mix mayonnaise with chopped boiled eggs and pickles to make tartar sauce, fried chicken with vinegar and tartar sauce-like style.

"Alright. We should make the tartar sauce first."

""Tarutaru~?""

"Ta, Takumi-sama, w, what kind of dish is that!?"

Ryan-san is more restless than the children.....

"It's a sauce. Allen, Elena, let's make mayonnaise~"

"Allen will mix~"

"Elena will mix too~"

Recently, I've had the two children who got used to mixing with the whisk help me with making mayonnaise.

"Takumi-sama, is that Mizuuri?"

"Yes, I have pickled the Mizuuri."

"Mizuuri" is a vegetable resembling a cucumber. I have rubbed salt in to take out the liquid and then left it immersed in vinegar and sugar mix.

""Mi~x~, mi~x~""

I chop the ingredients while pouring oil little by little in the bowl Allen and Elena are mixing in.

Boiled eggs and pickled Mizuuri, next is..... green onion and parsley?

"Onii~chan."

"It's done~"

"Yep, good job!"

""Yay~""

Allen and Elena completed the mayonnaise without a hitch.

Inserting the chopped ingredients in the two's piece of art mayonnaise, mixing it all together and the tartar sauce is finished!

"Alright, it's done!"

""Ohh~""

"I see, adding ingredients to mayonnaise....."

Ryan-san was muttering behind us, but I ignored that and temporarily stored the tartar sauce in the Infinite Storage.

Since we have the opportunity, how about making a dessert next? ..... What to make? I might as well make something I haven't made before, right~

Ice cream! Ah~ but, it seems it would cause a ruckus if I made an ice cream now..... let's pass.

Ah, I thought of making small pancakes and putting anko between them to make dorayaki before, didn't I? If it's coarse anko, then it would be popular among the people of the Risner mansion.

Ah~ if it's wagashi then youkan would be good too. That would be more dessert-like, right?

But, agar is necessary for youkan..... however, how do you make agar from seaweed? That would be impossible as expected. I should make it with slime jelly here. Rather than youkan, would it turn into mizu youkan? No, red bean jelly?

I have plenty of time to spare, so let's make dessert-like red bean jelly and dorayaki for snacks.

""Next~?""

"Let's make snacks next. Allen, Elena, do you remember how to make pancakes?"

""Remember~""

"Alright! Then, can you do your best at mixing again?"

""Will do~""

That being the case, we promptly started making pancakes.

Allen and Elena perfectly remembered how pancakes are made, so there were no problems with the dough making. And then—

""Jii~""

When I heated up the frying pan and started cooking the pancake dough, Allen and Elena were closely gazing at the frying pan.

“It’s bubblybubbly~”

“Turn it around~”

“..... Kuku.”

Allen and Elena properly memorized the timing for turn over.

When I turn it over according to the children, a beautiful, fox color appeared. It's the color of good cooking.

When I cooked pancakes before, they tried to pop the bubbles that appeared on the dough with their fingers, but they are properly enduring with their hands behind their backs this time.

“Look, it’s cooked~”

“”It’s done, it’s done~””

“Not yet~”

“”Not yet~?””

“That’s right. Next, we will put this bean jam between two pancakes.”

By putting pre-made coarse anko between two sheets of pancake, the dorayaki is finished.

“It’s done this time.”

“”Yay~””

“Ta, Takumi-sama, this is, this is?”

“It’s called dorayaki.”

“”Can eat~?””

“M, may I try it as well?”

“I, I want to eat it too.”

Following the children, Ryan-san and Thor-san asked for the snack.

“..... Can’t be helped~ It’s before dinner, so Allen and Elena can have only half each, okay?”

“”Yeah!“”

“”Thank you very much!“”

I made adzuki jelly while the others eat the snack and finally started cooking the alligator meat.

And, at the dinner——

“This is so tasty. The hell is this!”

“This is wonderful!”

“The meat itself is juicy, but the affinity of the mayonnaise mixed with the faintly sour sauce is.....——”

Wald-sama, Isaac-san, and Cedric-san reported their impressions in turns.

It seems they like it. Rather, Cedric-san is commenting as a food critic as usual.

““It’s delish~””

“Anything Takumi-san makes is delicious, isn’t it?”

“Yes, it’s very tasty.”

The children seem to like it too. But——

“..... Father is different from usual again~”

“Father is recently like this quite a lot, isn’t he~”

Theodore-kun and Latis-kun were wryly smiling at their father’s transformation.

## Chapter 92

To the Mermaid Village Once Again

Thinking of visiting the Mermaid Village—the Blue Waters Shrine before departing from Bailey in order to say farewell to Miko Princess, I brought the kids to the sea. I made a promise to “Come play again” to Miko Princess and I also thought of asking her to lend me a few more mermaid bracelets.

“Takumi-sama~! You came as promised~”

The fascinating intrusion checking barrier was spreading before us, but because I made sure it didn’t react to us, we went directly to the Blue Waters Shrine. Then, Miko Princess, Mirena-san, and Gard-san immediately welcomed us.

“Hello, it’s been a while. Hey, Allen, Elena say hello.”

““Hello~””

“Oh my, oh my, hello. Allen-sama and Elena-sama seem to be doing well.”

““Doing well~””

It was only our second time meeting Miko Princess and others, but Allen and Elena cheerfully greeted them.

Were they affected a bit by Theodore-kun and Latis-kun and got accustomed to people a bit more?

"Today, rather than coming to play, we came to say goodbye and..... to request something."

"Goodbye? A request, is it?"

"Yeah. We will be leaving the nearest town from here soon."

"Ehh!? W, why~!?"

When I reported that we will be leaving Bailey, Miko Princess lost her composure and raised a surprised voice.

"Miko Princess, your mask came off. Please, calm down."

"!! Wau~"

When Mirena-san soothed Miko Princess, she tried to mend her manners in panic.

"I, I'm sorry, Takumi-sama."

"No, no, I'm sorry for surprising you."

"I just lost my composure, so don't worry about it please. So, where is Takumi-sama heading to?"

"The capital of the country we are currently in."

"Is that so..... then, we won't be able to meet again quite readily....."

Miko Princess was clearly feeling dejected.

"Miko Princess, if you get dejected in such easy to understand manner, Takumi-sama will get worried. And so, what is your request, Takumi-sama?"

Gard-san soothed Miko Princess this time and I stated my other business.

"..... Umm, I was wondering if you could lend me some mermaid bracelets..... of course, I will pay the price."

"Oh my? Mermaid bracelets, is it? Takumi-sama is using it, right? Eh, was there perhaps a malfunction while using it!?"

"No, everything's all right."

When I conveyed that I would like more bracelets, Miko Princess got flustered, thinking that my bracelet broke down, so I immediately denied.

"R, really?"

"Yes. I have several contracted beasts, so those children's share..... I really wanted to come here together with them, but..... well, it was impossible."

"So it's like that. In that case, we will immediately prepare them. How many do you need?"

"Is that okay? If possible, I would like at least three."

"No problem! We will prepare a few including reserves. It's fine right, Gard?"

"Yes, if it's mermaid bracelets then they can be immediately prepared."

I'm glad~ It seems they will give them to me.

"Thank you very much."

""Everyone's share?""

"That's right. A share for Joule and everyone. Will Allen and Elena give thanks too?"

""Yea, thank you~""

As they were told, Allen and Elena bobbed their heads and thanked Miko Princess and others.

"And so for the compensation, money..... won't be necessary, right? If you have something you need, I would like to prepare it, but....."

"To receive compensation from Takumi-sama! Something like that isn't necessary."

"However..... that would leave me unsatisfied. If you have materials you need, if you are troubled about something..... is there something?"

As expected, I won't be able to calm down without paying with something of equal value rather than just receiving it for free. However, it's not like mermaids living in the sea are using money from the surface.

Mirena-san said that she likes gems, so I was considering whether gems would be all right, but I thought it would be better to confirm what they want, so I asked but..... is there not something, I wonder.....

"——Ah!"

Oh my? It appears that Miko Princess has come up with something.

"If there's something then tell me without hesitating."

"Umm..... err, you see..... Gard~ What's going on with that matter~?"

"That matter, you mean the crimson luminous moss, right? Unfortunately, it hasn't been settled yet."

"Crimson luminous moss, is it?"

"Yes, actually..... crimson luminous moss is a faintly shining moss growing in the depths of the sea, but we could hardly harvest it recently."

Miko Princess apologetically explained the situation.

Crimson luminous moss, huh..... erm, a moss growing in the depths of the sea..... ah, materials for medicine?

N~..... how unfortunate. I don't have any.

"I'm sorry, I don't have any at hand..... will I be able to get it in the town? That or I should search the bottom of the sea....."

"No! Umm! We, we know the place where it grows! That place has a considerable amount of growing moss, but a strong monster lives at that place, so....."

I see, it's a place where moss grows en masse and a monster that the mermaids can't deal with lives there, huh. If that's the case, it would be faster than looking for it around the sea or in the town.

"You know something about that monster, right?"

"Yes. It's Bone Shark."

Bone Shark——a shark of bones, huh..... it's a B-rank monster.

It's a sea monster, but it's also an undead.

"Your troubles will go away if that Bone Shark is defeated, right? In that case, I will deal with it for you."

"..... Uu~ Even though we said that there's no need for compensation, to request you with such thing....."

"That way is better for me. So, may I ask you to guide me to the Bone Shark's place?"

"Is that really fine with you? It's a considerably strong monster, you know?"

"Well, I will somehow manage□

I'm concerned about the underwater battle, but light magic will be effective and if something unexpected happens, it's an opponent I will manage to deal with my own strength.

""Will do my best~!""

"Eh? Allen-sama and Elena-sama are going as well!?"

They must have understood monster subjugation from the flow of conversation. Allen and Elena raised their voices in high spirits and Miko Princess got startled by that.

Well, I was certain the children would want to go with me though.....

"Ah~..... Allen, Elena. Leave it to me today, okay?"

"".....""

It's a bit unacceptable for the children to have a higher level than me, so I would like them to let me level up here. Therefore, when I asked the two, they were troubled.

“Okay?”

“”.....Uniyu~””

When I asked once more, the two reluctantly accepted.

“But, you are bringing them with you, right!? Isn’t it dangerous!?”

“Fufu. Allen-sama’s and Elena-sama’s swimming is so skillful that even I was startled, so they won’t become a burden. Besides, they know how to fight.”

“They have a talent for magic after all. They won’t have problems defending themselves.”

“Ehh!? Is that so!? Eh? It was only me who didn’t know!?”

Mirena-san who saw Allen and Elena swimming and Gard-san who instructed them in magic were watching with consent, so Miko Princess called out in surprise again.

I wonder how many times we made her surprised in this short time~ Somehow..... I’m sorry.

## Chapter 93

Bone Shark

Mirena-san took over the role to guide me to the place where the crimson luminous moss grows.

There are three other mermen youth accompanying us. The youths are dressed as soldiers and they are apparently the strongest people in the Blue Waters Shrine. Most likely feeling bad for leaving the Bone Shark to me alone, Miko Princess must have let them follow us as a battle force.

Well, I would be fine even if they weren’t here, but I should just think of them as Mirena-san’s guards.

“”Yaa!””

When Sand Crabs monsters appeared along the way, Allen and Elena swam and thrust towards them with great vigor, instantly defeating them.

“”.....””

The three youths were dumbfounded by Allen’s and Elena’s fighting style.

“Strong, aren’t they? But, you guys are accompanying us as a battle force, so please be careful of your surroundings so you don’t lag behind the two.”

Mirena-san lit the fire of the three youths.

But, I think it would be quite difficult to act faster than Allen and Elena. There are times when my response time is slower than theirs after all.....

"Takumi-sama, we are close."

""Ah! It came~!""

When we were about to arrive, the Bone Shark appeared from the front accompanied by loud noises.

"Mirena-san."

"Yes!"

"Is there no mistake that the crimson luminous moss place is in the direction the Bone Shark came from?"

"Yes, that's correct!"

"Then, I will attract the Bone Shark and pull it away from this place, so Mirena-san and others take cover for a moment and go to the place once it seems all right."

Even if unlikely, I don't want to waste the crimson luminous moss place. If I'm to fight, I would rather do it somewhere further away.

"Then, take these guys with you....."

"No, it's better for them to stay close to Mirena-san. We can't be sure there are no other tough monsters after all."

"Yes! But still!"

"It will be fine. ——Water Spear."

I attacked the Bone Shark with magic in order to provoke it.

"Allen, Elena, let's go~"

""Yess~""

"Ta, Takumi-sama~"

Mirena-san spoke in a voice that was about to cry, but I started swimming without minding it.

I saw the Bone Shark chasing after us while making rattling noises. The provocation went smoothly.

"——Oops."

I dodge the chasing Bone Shark who tried to ram me from behind. It's fast as expected. I'm unlikely to win against the Bone Shark in swimming.

"Water Wall."

The Bone Shark turned around and charged towards us again, so I created a wall of water and blocked it from reaching us.

Now then, what to do? Come to think of it, what will happen if I use healing magic on an undead?

I'm bit curious..... let's give it a try.

"Heal."

I tried using healing magic on the Bone Shark.

Then, the Bone Shark started violently struggling.

Un, it received damage. This seems to be effective. If that's the case——

"Overheal."

Overheal is magic that recovers more than the received damage——so to speak, it's excessive recovery magic.

When I fired that magic, a white light sprang forth with me in the center. It wasn't an intense eye-straining light, but a warm and comfortable one. Nothing in particular happened to us, but the bones of the Bone Shark who was covered by that light broke, not able to keep the form of shark anymore.

""Ohh~""

"..... Huh? It worked better than I expected."

""Onii~chan, amazing!""

Allen and Elena praise me without holding back.

Light magic seems to be more effective against undead more than I thought. Rather, it works too much. Despite being a B-rank monster, it has been simply disposed of.

The scattered bones of the Bone Shark slowly descent to the bottom of the sea.

"Allen, Elena. Will you help me collecting the bones?"

""Yea!""

The bones of Bone Shark are materials for hard weapons, so I had Allen and Elena help me pick them up.

"Mirena-san."

""We are back~""

"Ta, Takumi-sama! Allen-sama and Elena-sama too! I'm glad you are safe! D, do you have any injuries!?"

"We are fine. Both the children and I are unhurt."

“”Is fine~””

“I’m glad~”

Mirena-san made an expression of relief. Looks like we made her worried.

“So, the Bone Shark is.....”

“It’s okay. I have defeated it.”

“”Defeated it~””

“Really!? Thank you very much!”

“Ohh~” the three mermen youths raised their voices in admiration.

But, if you look at me with such eyes of pure respect..... it’s not like I obtained the Light Magic on my own, so I feel extremely guilty.

“Ah~..... we have collected the materials as well, so I will hand it to you later if you need it. So, is that the crimson luminous moss sticking on that rock?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

I would love to excuse myself from such an atmosphere, so I decided to plainly change the subject.

The fairly large rock was sunk at the bottom of the sea and it was shining red, so I was quite curious.

“It’s pretty, isn’t it?”

“Shiny~”

“Pretty~”

Allen and Elena were entranced by the crimson luminous moss.

Ah, which reminds me, crimson luminous moss is a material I don’t have.

“Mirena-san, may I pick a little as well?”

“Of course.”

When I asked whether I can collect some for myself, Mirena-san pleasantly approved, so I picked some moss, checked the surroundings for monsters one more time, and we returned to the Blue Waters Shrine.

When we returned, we were immediately guided to Miko Princess.

“Ta, Takumi-samaa~! Welcome back~!”

“We have returned. The Bone Shark has been safely eliminated.”

“Is that the truth! Thank you very much.”

When I reported that the Bone Shark has been eliminated, Miko Princess was clearly delighted.

"Takumi-sama, these are the things we promised. Please, store them."

"Eh!?"

Gard-san gave his thanks too and handed over the mermaid bracelets, but..... there were about ten. I'm certain I asked for three, but to prepare this much.....

"Is this many really fine?"

"Yes, of course it is. It's just this is all we currently have, so I would have to ask you to wait if this much is not enough."

That means these are all bracelets in their storage, right? In addition, they will make more if it's not enough, right? It looks like they will prepare even an unreasonable number if I demand it, oy.

But, I can't imagine underwater activity with more bracelets than this!

"N, no! This is enough. Thank you very much."

"Is that so?"

"Yes!"

Moreover, when politely declined, Gard-san looked disappointed for some reason.

Ah, even Miko Princess and Mirena-san are making the same expression as Gard-san..... I wonder what is it that they want from me?

Well, after ignoring the three making disappointed expressions, we chatted with everyone and we decided to return to the town before it gets dark.

"Takumi-sama. You must definitely come to visit if you are nearby again, okay?"

"Yes. I won't say it will be soon, but we will come again."

"Allen-sama, Elena-sama too, let's meet again, okay?"

""Yea! Bye bye~""

On the way back, I used Telepathy to say farewell to Kaiser too. Then, Kaiser immediately replied, he currently seems to be somewhere in the open ocean far away.

We unfortunately couldn't meet, so when I reported through the Telepathy that we are leaving the town, he told me to call him immediately if something happens. With a grateful reply, we swam towards the beach.

## Chapter 94

Departure

Once our preparations for travel were done, we have said farewell to everyone in the Risner House we have stayed in for such a long time. Theodore-kun and Latis-kun were looking sad, but after promising them to write letters, we have moved together with Wald-sama and Isaac-san outside the town.

Other than Wald-sama and Isaac-san, Oswald-san and Mars-kun are accompanying us to the royal capital. Oswald-san is a taciturn man in his thirties and Mars-kun is a friendly, nineteen years old youth.

These two apparently came along with Wald-sama and Isaac-san from Shirin because their duties have been transferred to the capital as well.

“Don’t approach the feet of the horses because it’s dangerous! Do you understand?”

“Kyan (Got it~).”

“Naa~ (We will be fine~).”

“Pii.”

“Garu.”

On this travel, Joule and others are acting together with us, so I called everyone once we left the town. Of course, the three that I made everyone think they are children are in their small forms.

Then, after cautioning everyone, they all returned a proper reply. Whether it was to deceive our fellow travel companions, Joule and Feat who can use Telepathy let out proper animal cries.

And then, when the preparations were done and we were about to depart, a problem has occurred.

“Ride with Onii~chan~”

“Elena too~”

“.....”

Either Allen or Elena will ride the horse I ride, but..... we haven’t decided who is going to ride first.

There was no problem riding with one at a time during the practice.

I had them ride with Isaac-san for trial, but there also wasn’t a problem.

However, it was done when they were separated both times, so there was no need to split them between Isaac-san and me.

“Since you will switch midway, how about one of you rides with Isaac-san now?”

“”No~””

“.....”

Ah~ this is no good. It feels like the two's opinion won't bend no matter what.

..... Now then, what should I do~

"Let's see~ Takumi-san, get on the horse first for now."

"Eh? Ah, yes."

While troubled over what to do, Isaac-san told me to mount the horse, so I got on the horse as told. Then, Isaac-san lifted up Elena and placed her on the horse in front of me.

Next, he lifted Allen and placed him behind me.

"Allen-kun, please tightly hold on Takumi-san's neck and shoulders."

"Okay!"

"Ehh!?"

Isaac-san let Allen stand on the horse's butt, he's holding me as if I was piggybacking him.

This is..... surely not, right~.....

"..... Isaac-san, moving like this is not good, is it?"

"They will not fall if it's Allen-kun or Elena-san. Just in case, let's tie the child behind you to you."

Seriously!? Am I really let the horse gallop when he's in such posture?

Hey, Isaac-san promptly took out a rope or rather a belt, and tied Allen to me.

"Hey! Isaac-san, what's the matter with that belt!?"

"I thought it might be necessary, so I prepared it just in case."

Whoa..... what a high-quality preparation.....

Allen happily clung to my neck, peeping to the front with his knees dangling in the air while Elena was looking forward to the change of turns.

(Oh~ that looks quite fun, doesn't it?)

(Fufufu. He seems happy~)

Joule and Feat were looking at us as if seeing something heartwarming.

It appears that there's no person who is going to tsukkomi here.

"Alright, seems like we are ready. Then, let's depart~"

""Departu~re!""

"....."

Allen and Elena thrust their fists upwards in response to Wald-sama's words.

I lightly sighed and instructed the horse. The uncomfortableness was terrible when the horse started moving, but it disappeared after running for a while. Rather, I got used to it instantly?

""Coming~""

A little while after leaving the town, Allen and Elena suddenly called out.

"Really!? Oswald, Mars. Can you confirm the monsters?"

"There are! Three wolves at the front!"

Wald-sama could guess what the children's short comment meant and immediately instructed his subordinates. Then, before long, wolves appeared in front of us.

Allen and Elena were with me on the horseback, so they were fidgety because they couldn't jump down and defeat the wolves.

"Wolves, huh. Do we keep going? Or do we get down from the horses?"

"We don't have to get down from the horses. Bolt, can I ask you to take care of it?"

"Pyuruu~"

Isaac-san was asking Wald-sama for instructions, but I interrupted their exchange and asked Bolt to take care of the wolves.

Then, Bolt let out a cry of acknowledgment and flew towards the wolves.

"Pyui~"

""""Gyaun!""""

Bolt fired lightning from the skies at the wolves. The wolves were defeated in no time. Then, he took one of the wolves by its leg and brought it to me who was on the horseback.

"Pyuru."

"Thank you, Bolt."

After I put the corpse of the wolf into the Infinite Storage, Bolt flew to get the other wolves.

"Takumi really doesn't have any limits..... are you not even going to stop to process the corpses?"

"Well, it's Takumi-san after all. It helps that there's no blood flowing because this is the main road though."

"Even though they weren't monsters that strong, to defeat them in one strike....."

"As expected of a Thunderhawk!"

“Hahaha~”

I heard both exhausted and admiration voices from Wald-sama and others.

It was because of Bolt who was carrying the defeated wolves, but they were electrocuted this time. They seem astonished that there was no blood flowing.

That's because there's a possibility of others monsters being attracted by the blood flow. But you see~ Allen and Elena defeat most monsters by impact, Joule and others also ram their opponents most of the time, so flowing blood is rare itself in our case~

“Pyuru?”

“It's nothing. Thanks for your hard work.”

““Hard work~””

“Pyuru!”

Bolt stayed on my arm after bringing me the three corpses and was tilting head in “What's the matter? manner, so I patted Bolt's head in thanks.

“Wald-sama, shall we go?”

“Ou, let's go.”

We let the horses run again, stopped along the way for a break and arrived at a small village in the evening. We will be staying here today.

## **Chapter 95**

Majesta

“Takumi, we will take a break there.”

“Okay, I understand.”

The second day after leaving Bailey. We have been riding the horses since the morning today as well, it's almost time for lunch.

The place Wald-sama designated as our resting place was an empty open plain with a large tree growing in the center.

“That's a big tree, isn't it~”

“That's a Majesta tree. Oh my, how rare. It's bearing fruit.”

Majesta tree is considerably thick, large tree with thick green leaves bearing many yellow fruits. Erm—Yeah~ Majesta tree's fruit season is irregular, so the times the fruit grows seems to be unpredictable.

While looking up at the Majesta tree, I fumbled about the imprinted knowledge and knowledge related to that.

""Is delish~?""

"It seems to be tasty."

In fact, Majesta seems to be very delicious. However, it's a very rare fruit.

Since the fruit grows irregularly then it's only given that it's rare, but to happen to pass by just as the fruit is ripe..... what a terrifying coincidence.

Seeing rare fruit makes me want to try eating it in a mountain of ways, but the bark of Majesta tree is hard and slippery, the whole trunk is covered in branches and bumps, so it would be difficult to collect the fruit which grows at the top.

It might be possible to collect them if we had a long ladder prepared, but Majesta apparently bears fruit just for half a day then it rots and falls. That's why there's no opportunity to return to the town as it's necessary to gather the fruit immediately after seeing it or you will lose the chance to gather them.

Moreover, while the fruit is quick to rot on the tree, it's a mysterious fruit that is storable for a very long time after it's harvested.

"Piii~"

"N? —Oopsy."

When I looked up after hearing Bolt's cry, Bolt who flew over at the top of the tree poked a branch with fruit and dropped it down. It was a fruit that was slightly larger than my fist.

"Thank you, Bolt."

"Pii."

Bolt continued and dropped a few more fruits.

"Here, Bolt got it for you."

""Muu~""

"N? What's the matter, Allen, Elena?"

When I handed over the Majesta fruit to Allen and Elena who were greatly interested in it, they were sulking for some reason.

"Allen will get it~"

"Elena will too~"

"Eh? I understand your feelings of wanting to get it, but you can't reach it, right?"

Allen and Elena said that they want to get it themselves. But, Majesta fruit is at the very top. Bolt was able to get the fruit because of flying.

Because of the unevenness and branches that are in the way of climbing, even Allen and Elena wouldn't be able to climb this tree.

""Make us po~n."""

"Po~n?"

""Yea!""

Po~n, huh..... hey!

"Eh!? Do you perhaps mean to throw you up!?"

""Yea!""

Shockingly, Allen and Elena demand me to throw them up into the thick leaves and branches. As expected, throwing you two is impossible——..... it actually isn't. I can do it, surely.

Certainly, using this method they would arrive at the top without the struggle of climbing. But, however——

"No, no! Even the branches at the top seem to be slippery, so it's dangerous, you know? Bolt will get the fruit for us, so there's no need to recklessly pick them yourself, okay?"

""Will go~""

"....."

The two seem to be determined. Rather, there's not much I can say once the two speak up.

Not being able to help it, I decided to let the two do as they want and ready myself under the tree in case they fall.

"Let's start with Allen."

"Okay!"

"Oy, Takumi. What are you planning to do!?"

"Ah, Wald-sama. The two are saying they want to pick the Majesta fruit, so.....  
——up you go."

I lifted Allen and vigorously flung him up.

The flung Allen skillfully grasped a branch and landed without difficulty.

"Are you okay~?"

“Okay~”

When I called him, he returned a lively reply.

“Elena too~”

“Yes, yes. It’s Elena’s turn next.”

“Yeah!”

“Up you go!”

Next, I lifted the urging Elena and flung her up just like Allen.

Elena skillfully grasped a branch too and made a landing on top of it.

“You two, be careful not to fall down, okay~”

“”Yess~””

While cautioning them not to fall, Allen and Elena replied while jumping from one branch to another and started picking up the Majesta fruit.

“What an outside the norm thing.....”

“Well~ The two are the type who won’t listen once they decide on something.....  
——oh.”

As soon as my hands were empty, Bolt dropped a fruit.

“Joule, Feat, Vector. I will give you baskets, so help me collecting the fruit, okay~”

“Kyan.”

“Nnaa~”

“Garu.”

Feat grabbed the basket in her mouth, flew up and started receiving the fruit from Allen and Elena directly. Joule and Vector started skillfully catching the fruit Bolt dropped into their baskets.

The harvesting continued for a while and the Majesta fruit in sight has nearly disappeared.

“”Onii~chan!“”

“Are you done? Then, descend one by one. Let’s start with Allen, okay?”

“Yeah.”

Saying such, Allen jumped down from the branch without hesitation.

I toned down the force of Allen’s falling by a little with wind magic and caught him.

“Welcome back.”

“I’m back~”

I lower Allen whom I safely caught on the ground and prompt Elena to jump next.

“Elena, you can go~”

“Yea.”

Elena jumped down without any hesitation as well.

I toned down the force of Elena’s fall just like with Allen and caught her.

“Welcome back.”

“I’m here~”

When I lowered Elena on the ground, the two started taking out the Majesta fruit from the magic pouches on their waists.

““Got many~””

“Wai, wait a moment.....——you two, put it in here.”

It seems they harvested fruit besides the fruit they gave to Feat.

Panicking, I retrieved a new basket from the ~~Inifnite Storage~~ and told the two to place the fruit in it. Allen and Elena started taking out the fruit one by one and filling up the basket.

“Wow~ you two worked hard~”

The Majesta fruit piled up in the basket in no time.

Adding everything up, we got quite a lot. It’s a considerably large tree, so it seems to bear a lot of fruit.

“Why don’t we try eating it?”

““Yea!””

Majesta fruit is delicious on its own, so I decided to try a taste.

After I used Washing on the fruits and handed them to Allen and Elena, the two turned towards the four knights which accompanied us.

““Here!””

Saying such, they held out the fruits in their hands.

“You will give us too?”

““Yeah!””

“Thank you very much.”

Isaac-san dropped to his knees to match Allen's and Elena's line of sight and received the Majesta fruit from the two with a smile. Following after him, Wald-sama, Oswald-san, and Mars-kun received the fruit as well.

"Takumi, is that really fine? You can make quite a lot by selling this fruit, ya know?"

"I don't mind. Even if you say quite a lot..... we have this much, after all~"

"....."

Although Wald-sama and others received the Majesta fruit, they seemed to be hesitant. Mars-kun was so nervous I found him pitiable.

However, when I pointed at the baskets full of the fruit we harvested, everyone made shocked expressions.

"Here, it's everyone's share~"

""Yess~""

"Kyan (Yaa~y)."

"Nnaa~ (Niisama, thank you)."

"Pii."

"Garu~"

I handed the Majesta fruit to Allen, Elena, Joule, and others who tried it immediately.

""It's delish~""

"Yep, it's tasty. Allen, Elena, thank you for getting them for us."

""Ehehe~""

"Bolt too, thank you."

"Pyururu~"

Actually, the Majesta fruit was juicy and crunchy similarly to a Japanese pear, it's a delicious and quite sweet fruit. All of the children seem to like it.

Wald-sama and others also started eating and they were quite impressed.

""Will go one more time~""

When we finished eating, Allen and Elena said that they wanted to go up one more time. But—

"No, no, didn't you guys take as much as you could?"

""There's many, you know~?""

"Eh!?"

When I looked up where Allen and Elena were pointing, a ridiculous spectacle entered my sight.

“Eh! How!?”

The Majesta fruit that was supposed to be harvested was there once again. Mysterious vegetation is really full of mysteries.....

## Chapter 96

Desired

“Ah.”

“N? What’s the matter?”

“It became red~”

“Eh.....?”

When Allen and Elena safely returned to the ground from harvesting Majesta fruit once again, they pointed above again for some reason. When I looked up wondering whether the fruit regrew again, the leaves changed from green and became bright red in an instant.

“Ama~zing.”

“This is.....”

To change into autumn colors in an instant..... Majesta tree really is a mysterious tree.

“!! Allen-kun, Elena-san! I’m sorry, but could you please go up again and get us some of the red leaves?”

“U?”

Isaac-san requested Allen and Elena to collect the leaves.

Majesta’s red leaves, huh..... ah! Green leaves are simply leaves, but red leaves are usable for medicine. These red leaves are irregular as well, it’s said they appear once in several years. Moreover, they return back to green in a few hours.

“Ah!”

While in the middle of looking up the knowledge about Majesta, Oswald-san and Mars-kun called out too.

“I would like to ask you as well! Please collect the leaves!”

“It’s fine if you just drop them! We will pick them up!”

They started entreating the children in a very desperate way.

Err, what are Majesta leaves used for again.....——Ah! It's a medicine for athlete's foot!

The Iwamizu Moss we came across in the Gaya Forest was also a herb used for athlete's foot, but that was just a material used to suppress the itch. However, Majesta leaves are used to completely cure the athlete's foot.

"Allen, Elena. Those red leaves are used for medicine."

""Herb~?""

"That's correct, they are herbs. Could you get them please?"

""Alright~""

Getting the two's approval, I flung them to the top of the tree again.

"Feat and Bolt too, could you help to drop the leaves?"

"Naa~ (Un, okay~)."

"Piii."

When I asked Feat and Bolt to help to drop the leaves, the two animal immediately flew up.

"Those two will drop the leaves, may I ask you to collect them?"

"Yes! Thank you very much, Takumi-dono!"

"Thank you very much!"

They thanked me in great spirits.

"..... No, yeah, don't mind it. Nevertheless, Oswald-san and Mars-kun seem to know what those leaves are used for, right?"

It's no wonder that the extensively knowledgeable Isaac-san knows, but I found it curious that Oswald-san and Mars-kun knew it as well.

"Well of course! It's a material I desire, so I memorized it!"

"I gave up because it's a material that can't be obtained easily, but I can have hope with this!"

"....."

Ah..... the two are also humans troubled by the itch, huh..... well, it can't be helped when walking in stuffy boots with poor breathability for long periods of time. Can't be helped.

That being the case, since they know the herb, if we collect as many leaves as possible, we may help a lot of troubled people.

"W, what?"

Only Wald-sama wasn't able to get the situation.

"Wald-sama, those leaves are used for a medicine that completely cures skin itch."

"Wha, whaaat 𠮶嘢!!"

Wald-sama screamed after hearing Isaac-san's words and joined Oswald-san and Mars-kun who were already hurriedly picking up the leaves.

Wald-sama and others collected the leaves in great vigor and collected quite a lot of leaves. Well, Isaac-san was going at his own pace.

"Everyone~ it's enough~"

""Finished~?""

"Nnaa~? (Is it enough?)."

"We have secured plenty of leaves. Allen, Elena, Feat, Bolt, thank you."

I help Allen and Elena down from the tree and thank Feat and Bolt for their work as well.

"Pyui! (Aniue~!)."

"N?"

At that time, an unfamiliar voice resounded in my head. But, I heard it overlapping with Bolt's voice, so.....

(..... Is this perhaps Bolt's voice?)

"Pyurururu! 𠮶嘢 Yes, Aniue! I have learned telepathy~.)."

(Oh, congratulations! I see, Bolt has learned telepathy..... erm, you are a male, right?)

I dared to confirm Bolt's gender which I wasn't clear about.

Unlike mammals, I couldn't judge the gender of Bolt who is a bird from his appearances. This voice I'm hearing through the telepathy would be boyish if I had to choose? Is what I think, but the voice sounds younger than Joule's, so I can't be certain.

(Yes, I'm a male.)

(I see.....)

..... I'm glad. Because the name "Bolt" seems to be more suitable for a male, I feel relieved that he's male.

(Aniue. I really like the name Bolt.)

Bolt said so as if seeing through me. But, it makes me really happy that he likes his name.

""Bolt, you did it~""

(Ohh~ Bolt has learned telepathy too~)

(Yes.)

(That leaves just Vector.)

"..... Garu~"

It might have been just my imagination, but Vector seemed a bit down. Well, Vector is the only one who can't use telepathy yet. He might be feeling left out.

"Garu-!!"

"Eh! Oy, Vector, where are you going?"

But, Vector ran off somewhere all of sudden afterward.

(I'm going to defeat monsters and learn telepathy, he said~)

"Eh?"

It seems he left a verbal message behind which Joule conveyed to me.

(But, but~ it's not like he will learn the skill by leveling up, right~?)

(That's right. Rather than that, he would have a better chance to learn it by conversing with us through telepathy.)

(It seems he didn't like being left out~)

Yeah, of course. I won't say it's unrelated, but it's not like he will learn the skill by increasing his level.

"Feat, I'm sorry but could you please go after him?"

(Okay, alright~)

Contracted beasts are connected by magical power so they won't get lost, but Vector is a worrisome child, so I had the most caring Feat to supervise him.

(Ah, Niisama~ May I borrow a magic bag? I would like to collect the materials if they don't turn into cinders~)

"..... Ah, yeah, here you go."

Handing a magic bag to Feat, she ran after Vector.

Rather cinders, huh..... that's very likely. Let's pray he won't burn the surroundings down.

Wald-sama and others were wondering where the two animals ran off to, but after I told them not to worry about, we decided to end the break earlier and continue advancing.

## **Chapter 97**

Step to Popularization

A few hours later, Feat and Vector returned.

((We are back~))

Together with Feat's voice, I heard a mischevious boyish voice. Apparently, Vector has safely learned the Telepathy skill. Whether he learned it by defeating monsters or thanks to Feat using Telepathy and cooperating with him, that I don't know.

"Seems like you safely learned it."

(Yeah! I learned it~)

"Thank you, Feat."

(It's fine~ Ah, these are monster materials. As I thought, he was turning them to cinders at first, so I couldn't get too much though.)

Ehh!? He really turned them to cinders!

"W, was there no damage to the surroundings?"

(There was a time a place nearly got burnt, but nothing that would become a problem happened, so it's fine.)

"I, I see."

Well, a bit burnt is toleratable.

Pulling myself together, it was already time, so we decided to move to the next camping place.

And, since I was entrusted with the meals everywhere that is not an inn, I immediately started the preparations.

"Allen, Elena. What do you want to eat?"

""N, you see~ .....— Curry rice!""

Oh! It's time for curry rice!

Come to think of it, Wald-sama and others have eaten dishes with curry spice before, but they haven't eaten curry yet, right? In that case, I think it should be fine for the curry to become today's main dish on the menu, but..... what to do about rice?

N~ I shouldn't worry too much about it and ask directly.

"Excuse me. Does anyone feel repulsive about eating White Wheat?"

"White Wheat you say, that White Wheat? That thing is hard to eat, isn't it?"

Wald-sama reacted to my question first.

"It can immensely soften after cooked. We ate it a lot in my hometown instead of bread."

"Is that so? Any of Takumi's dishes are delicious. I don't mind."

"That's right. I have no objections as well."

"Me too."

"I'm also good. Captain has been always boasting how delicious Takumi-san's dishes are, so I'm looking forward to it!"

I unexpectedly smoothly got everyone's approval.

White Wheat might not have the image of being animal feed, but it might have hard to eat image instead.

"Thank you very much. I will make it immediately. —— Allen, Elena, let's do it~"

""Yess~""

I think of asking the two to help me make ice cream for after the meal dessert. It's the perfect time for a dessert because it's still hot.

I mix sugar with eggs and add the thick milk—a fresh cream like thing we have recently discovered. This is where I would like to put vanilla beans. I still don't have them, so maybe next time. I think of going with simple ice cream.

No, egg ice cream? Well, either is fine.

Then, the mixture is heated for a moment. It can be done without heating, but food poisoning is scary. Safety first! I cool it after heating and split that liquid into three parts.

If I can make this skillfully, I would like to challenge various flavored ice creams. What I could do now is a strawberry-like flavor from "lichi Fruit", caramel, Kahee, and black tea. I could also put nuts in. Rum raisins may work too, but..... I don't have rum after all. How are brandy raisins, I wonder? I have a stock, should I give it a try? Among others, I could also do mint flavor and roasted soybeans flavor? It's too bad that I don't have the royal road of flavors, chocolate, but it seems that I will be able to make a decent one out of certain materials.

"Allen, Elena, could you stir this for me please?"

""Yes~""

I freeze one part instantly with Freeze magic and put it in the Infinite Storage. I freeze another part and have Allen and Elena stir it and slowly repeat the process a few times.

"You guys roll the ice so it won't break, okay~"

((((Yes~))))

Then, I put the last part in a container and seal it. I requested Joule to make an ice ball with the container in the center and have them roll it.

If I'm correct, the hardness or rather the texture of the ice cream should be different.

The children gave me a cheerful reply and everyone started their respective work, but the work of Joule and others feels like a game, so Allen and Elena were a bit interested at first, but they immediately started focusing on their own work.

While the children are working, I start making the curry rice.

First, I prepare the White Wheat in a large quantity. I think it would be necessary to make a good amount for the four knights, so I have to cook it several times. It doesn't take too much time to cook, so I will manage.

As for the curry..... shall I make the alligator curry I made before? I retrieve the ingredients from the Infinite Storage and continue working.

"Oh, looks good!"

""Done~?""

"Yep, you did well. Thank you."

Just as I was cooking the veggies, the ice cream was completed.

"Here, taste it."

""Ahh~.....—— Nniyu~""

When I spoon the ice cream Allen and Elena made and bring it in their mouths, the two held down their cheeks and showed the faces of satisfaction.

Before I noticed, Joule and others gathered too, so I gave everyone a mouthful.

"How is it?"

""Delish~! More~!""

It appears that Allen and Elena like the ice cream quite a lot. Their "More, more" requesting voices were something.

"N~ then, I will give you a mouthful of each type. The rest is after the meal."

""(((Yeah!))))""

I decided that we might as well taste and compare the ice cream Joule and others rolled around and the one I stored the moment I froze it.

Judging from the results, each came out deliciously, and if I had to choose, then the one Allen and Elena stirred came out the smoothest. Well, I think there's only a slight difference though.

N~ there should also be the method of whipping the fresh cream and mixing ingredients in. Would it come out smoother that way?

But you see~ the best method is the laborless freezing method. It's a simple method so Allen and Elena would have an easier time, and above all, it would be easier to make various kinds.

Ah, there's also the hand of making a magic tool that would easily whip the fresh cream. Let's try asking in a magic tool shop in the capital.

"Then, the tasting is over. Let's make the curry~"

""(((Yesss~))))""

Finishing the ice cream tasting, I resume cooking of curry.

"Looks delicious."

"It smells really nice~"

"It has an appetite stimulating fragrance, isn't it?"

"This scent makes me feel even hungrier~"

When I got to the stage of adding the spices and cooking it together, the knights who were waiting and preparing the camp in the distance impatiently approached. As I thought, the curry's fragrance is the best, it's a "human pampering."

I let it mature with magic this time as well, and it's complete!

"It's done, so let's have a meal."

When I said such, I was waiting for this, everyone was making such expression.

"Tasty~!"

"This is the White Wheat, huh. So it could become this soft."

"Also, this is quite filling, isn't it?"

"It's very delicious!"

The children are also eating deliciously, but the reaction of the knights was far greater.

Nevertheless, the reaction after eating the White Wheat was superb. The reaction of Vivian whom I let it eat before was also good, so the tongues of the people of Aetherdia might be close to Japanese people's as I thought.

""Onii~chan, aisuru~""

After finished eating the meal, Allen and Elena urged for the dessert ice cream.

Not only that, the two were also "quickly, quickly" repeating while pulling on my clothes. Joule and others were also rubbing against my body as if trying to press me.

“Alright, I got it.”

I retrieved ice cream from the Infinite Storage, served it in bowls and handed it to the children. Of course, I have it to Wald-sama and others as well.

“”Yum-yum~””

“Kyau~ (This is really delicious after all~)”

“Unaa~ (It’s delicious)”

“Pyuru~ (Delicious)”

“Garu~ (Yummy~)”

As expected, the children seemed to considerably like the ice cream and everyone ate it deliciously.

And, as for Wald-sama and others——

“””.....”””

They were silently indulging themselves. Well, there’s no doubt that they like it.

## Chapter 98

Alveil

We have arrived at Alveil, a town between Bailey and the Capital. Tonight, we will spend the night here.

“This is also quite a large town, isn’t it?”

“”Big~ isn’t it~””

Joule and others returned into my shadow when we entered the town, and we advanced on the main street to find the inn we will be staying at first.

“The inn is over there.”

What Wald-sama pointed at was an inn called [Red Piglet’s]. It seems to be quite a high-class inn. There were inns along the way too, but the lodging fees are apparently on the country’s expenses. As far as it goes, we seem to be treated as the king’s guests of honor.

After checking in, we had free time until dinner, so I decided to walk around the town with Allen and Elena.

“”Where to~””

“Shall we go shopping?”

“”Shopping~?””

“Yeah. Tell me if there’s something you guys want, okay?”

“”Yeah.””

Alveil seems to have rich production, so I hope to find something new~

“First of all, shall we buy nuts to put into the ice cream~?”

“”Aisu~””

“Many nuts~!”

“Make lots~!”

When I conveyed that I wanted to purchase nuts and included their utilization, the two were clearly pleased.

“You want to buy them that much?”

“”Ma~ny!“”

After that, the two walked all the way to the shop while singing “Nuts~ nuts~♪” in good humor.

“Welcome.”

“Hello~ I would like to buy nuts, could you show me what you have?”

When we entered the shop, a shopkeeper-ish middle-aged uncle smilingly called out to us, so I immediately asked him to show me the goods.

“Nuts? In that case, we have Kotou nuts, Aman, Maro nuts..... and Kashu.”

Umm..... walnuts and almonds. Oh, Maro is similar to Japanese chestnut. That one is Cashew nuts.

I thought I would be lucky if they had one thing I didn't have, but they have two, Japanese chestnut and Cashew. This is an instant buy.

“I would like each kind, but give me a somewhat larger quantity of Maro and Kashu please.”

“”Ma~ny!“”

“Thank you for your patronage~”

When I conveyed that I want to buy, Allen and Elena emphasized my “somewhat larger quantity.”

“Alright, how about this much?”

“”More~””

The shop's uncle filled a paper bag with nuts and when he looked at us to confirm the quantity, Allen and Elena said in discontent.

“More, you say?”

“”More!“”

“More, huh? Niisan, is that fine?”

“Yes, it’s fine. Put in a little bit more please.”

A considerable amount of nuts was already stuffed in the paper bag, so the shop’s uncle was worried whether we could eat all that, or maybe if we have enough money, but the number of nuts increased until Allen and Elena were satisfied.

“Allen, Elena. Shall we buy some dried fruit for snacks too?”

“”Yea.””

“Allen, Kukuru!”

“Elena, Shian!”

“Kukuru fruit and Shian fruit it is then. Alright. You don’t want anything else?”

“”Hmm? I~chi?“”

“Ichi fruit, got it.”

Grapes and fig. And also strawberries.

“N? This is.....”

When I was about to tell the shop’s uncle about the fruit Allen and Elena wanted to buy, I caught sight of something I haven’t seen before.

“Oh, Niisan, you have sharp eyes~ These are Starberries. They are difficult to get hold of, first-class goods with have twice the sugar content of Ichi fruit. Well, they are best when fresh, so they are even rarer when dried.”

“Heeh~”

Starberries, huh~ It’s appearances are similar to a strawberry. But, it’s a size bigger and yellow in color. Ah, but the name seems derived. I can see a faint star pattern on the surface. Since it’s first-class goods, it must be delicious. Un, then, let’s buy it.

“This, may I buy it up?”

“Ou, I don’t mind!”

There’s not that many being sold, so I decided to buy all there is.

“”Onii~chan, aah~!“”

“Haha~ that’s right. You want to try it.”

“”Yea.””

Because it’s rare and when you hear it’s delicious, you would want to try it immediately.

“After we pay, okay?”

“”Quickly~“”

“I got it, I got it. Ojisan, how much it adds up to?”

““How much~?””

“Ou, wait a moment.”

Until I paid, Allen and Elena demandingly continued pulling on the hem of my clothes.

“Here, Allen, Elena.”

““Aah~””

When I presented the Starberries I have received, the two widely opened their mouths in wait. It's just that the Starberries are a little too big to eat whole, so instead of entering their mouths, half of the fruits were sticking out of their mouths.

“Is it tasty?”

““Tasty~””

When I asked for impressions on the taste, the two sweetly smiled. Their expressions resemble the one they made when eating ice cream.

Furthermore, the two were staring at my face after finishing eating.

“What’s the matter?”

““Uniyu~.....””

“Ahh. Do you perhaps want to eat one more?”

“Will endure~”

“Next time~”

Oh my, oh my, they want to eat it, but it seems they will endure.

“Really?”

““Really~””

“I see. Then, let’s buy something to eat from the stalls on the main street.”

““Yeah!””

My stomach also feels empty, so when I proposed to eat something at the stalls, the children accepted my proposal.

“Alright, let’s go~”

““Let’s go~ let’s go~””

And then, when we got onto the main street——

““Ah!””

“N?”

Allen and Elena suddenly raised their voices after looking at the opposite side of the street.

## Chapter 99

Regrettable Beauty, Once Again

“Ah, aren’t you Oniisan from that time!”

When I looked where Allen and Elena were pointing, a familiar red-haired woman was running over to us. She’s the vampire woman we have met before, Vivian.

“I’m not your older brother!”

“I’m indeed older than you, aren’t I~ What was your name again?”

“..... Oy.”

“That’s a lie~ I’m only joking! It was Takumi-san, wasn’t it? I properly remember you~”

“.....”

“Rather than that, this must be fate. I’m extremely happy to meet you again! Well then, please give me food!”

“.....”

Haa? I think I lost her a bit there.....

“Food?”

“Yes, food. Anything’s fine, so please let me eat.”

“No, no, why! There are food stalls around here, so you should just buy food from them, right?”

“Don’t wanna~ I want to eat food made by you!”

“.....”

That’s an enormous complaint.

As expected, I’m not such kind stranger that would go “Ah, is that so? Then, here you go” when told “I want to eat”.

“Of course, I won’t eat for free! I have properly prepared the compensation!”

Vivian said such while puffing out her chest and presenting small bottles, so I looked at the bottles with Appraisal first.

□□□□□

### Drops of Blue Rose

A vampire specially made conception medicine. A medicine for a certain conception.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts approximately half a day.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

### Drops of Yellow Rose

A vampire specially made contraceptive. Absolute contraceptive.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts for three whole days.

Excellent product with no side effects. Women exclusive use.

### Drops of Black Rose

A vampire specially made spermicide. A medicine which cancels the propagative power of sperm.

Immediate effect. The effect lasts for three whole days.

Excellent product with no side effects. Men exclusive use.

…………

“Fufufu~ how about that!”

“……”

This woman..... why is this the medicine of her choice!?

Does she not have anything better for compensation!

“…… Why is it this medicine.”

“My? You are aware of the effect of these medicines, aren’t you? Takumi-san is knowledgeable~ The ingredients used for these medicines are special, so they are very precious medicines!”

They are rare medicines without a doubt. Although it’s a kind of medicine that is not particularly necessary..... but, I’m already tired of accompanying Vivian as her tsukkomi companion, I just have to let her eat and think that I have obtained a valuable medicine.....

“We are in the middle of the town, so I can take out only what I have.”

“I don’t mind!”

When I took outa pre-made cooking from the Infinite Storage, Vivian immediately started eating on the spot.

“Ngu, mugu, ngu!”

“Speak after your mouth isn’t full!”

Vivian tried to talk with her mouth fully stuffed, so I stopped her with all my might.

"Allen, Elena. Talking with a mouth stuffed with food like that is bad, so be sure you two absolutely don't do that, okay?"

""Yess~""

I teach Allen and Elena while showing the bad sample.

"It's delicious."

"Is that so?"

"Yes, seconds please."

"....."

Really shameless. But, if you compare the price of Vivian's medicine and my cooking, I think the medicine would be far more expensive, so I decided to obediently take out the seconds.

"Ah, for takeout too please."

"..... Oy."

Vivian's shamelessness exceeded boldness.

"Haah~ I'm full, I'm full~ I'm extremely satisfied~"

"..... That so?"

"Yes! Ah, I will give you this as well~"

＼＼＼＼＼

Enerunrun♪

A vampire specially made energy drink.

Five days worth of nourishment supplement.

Be careful not to overdose, okay♪

＼＼＼＼＼

"....."

She took out something strange again.....

Does that mean I won't have to eat for five days if I drink this?

"If you take it now, I will present you a set of ten Enerunrun♪! Therefore, I request takeout food as well!"

""Enerunrun~?""

"That's right~ It's something like fruit water after which you won't have to eat for a while. This is also my favorite article!"

It appears that Allen and Elena were attracted by its name.

""May drink~?""

"Oh my? Would you like to try?"

"Oy, wait a moment! Vivian, don't let them drink it without permission! Allen, Elena, if you drink that, you won't be able to eat meals for a while!"

I stopped the three who wanted to drink Enerunrun♪ in panic.

Hearing that they won't be able to eat, Allen and Elena who were reaching for the bottles promptly withdrew their hands. But, Vivian was still pushing the bottles into the two's hands, so I took the bottles from her hands.

I get annoyed just from thinking of getting on Vivian's proposal, but honestly, this medicine, or rather, this nutrient seems like it could be useful, so I decided to take it and yield to her demands.

"How about this, is it enough?"

I retrieved Cream bread, Anpan, Curry bread, egg sandwich, and tuna sandwich from the Infinite Storage and showed it to Vivian. They are breads that have been sold only in Shirin and Bailey. The sandwiches most likely didn't even appear on the market yet.

"Huh? Is this the jam bun that has been popular recently~?"

"No, it isn't a jam bun. The filling is different. The shop that sells them has only two kinds at the moment, so it's a pastry that the shops around here don't sell yet."

"Ohh~! That is wonderful. Thank you very much~"

It seems the negotiations were somehow arranged.

"Rather, the medicine you always take out, is it made by you?"

"Huh? Did I say what race I was from?"

..... Ah. If I know the medicine then I would know that it's vampire-made, but I have not heard from Vivian that she's a vampire yet.

"..... You said it when we met before, didn't you~"

"Did I?"

Was that not enough to deceive her?

"That's right."

"N~ that may be true now that I think about it~? So, about this medicine, right? As Takumi-san said, this medicine was made by me~"

Ah, looks like she has been deceived.

“As I thought.”

“Yes~ well, I might be irresponsible, but the effects of the medicines are perfect, so please be at ease.”

“.....”

No, that comment right now wasn’t needed~

“Well then, thank you very much for today. I look forward to seeing you again.”

..... Again, she said.

Leaving worrisome words behind, Vivan gallantly departed.

“..... Now then, Allen, Elena, thank you for waiting. What shall we eat?”

“”N, you see~ I want that~””

Pulling myself together, I decided to resume the stroll around town again.

## Chapter 100

Raid on the Town

After picking up some light snack at a street stall, we returned to the inn before it got dark and had a dinner with Wald-sama and rest. At that time——

——Ba—m!

“Buhiiii.”

Simultaneously with an explosive sound, some kind of beastly war cry resounded.

“W, what?”

“That just now was a monster’s cry, wasn’t it!?”

“I, It was nearby, right!?”

“This is downtown! Why is a monster here!”

The store’s interior suddenly became noisy.

“I think the soldiers will intercept it, but..... it would be better to check the state of the situation. Oswald, Mars, we are going!”

“”Y, yes!””

Inside the noisy store, Isaac-san composedly gave instructions and rushed out of the store together with Oswald-san and Mars-kun. Only Wald-sama remained behind.

Is that it? Accompanying us because they are pretty much supposed to be our guards? Normal times in the downtown aside, he won't leave us at such times?

""Monster~?""

"Looks like it."

"Allen will defeat~"

"Elena too~"

"Even without Allen and Elena defeating it, the soldiers of this town will."

""Muu~~~""

Hearing about a monster, Allen and Elena grew restless. It's because their turn didn't show up that much when monsters appeared on this journey. It seems they are itching to fight.

"Oy, oy..... please stop rushing out on every occasion."

Hearing our conversation, Wald-sama said exhaustedly.

"Well~ I don't want us plunging into troubles on our own too, but....."

But you see~ because the inn is facing the main street, I can see people running as if escaping from west to the east. That's why I feel frustrated, just sitting without doing anything.....

"Captain-!"

"Mars? Did you find out what happened?"

A short time later, Mars-kun returned. It seems he came to report the situation to Wald-sama.

"A swarm of Orcs appeared from the west. The exploding sound from a while ago was from a stone the Orcs threw at the wall. Vice-captain and Oswald-san went straight to the actual scene."

"..... I see."

Orcs, huh..... it seems it was from the west as I thought.

N~ Orc is a monster that can be defeated with two or three people of some skill, but.....

"Is it fine for Wald-sama not to go?"

"It's not like all of us can go and leave you guys behind. Since Isaac went there, I will stay here."

Ah, he remained behind as our guard as I thought.

"Well, the soldiers from various places will come together and divide between the subjugation force and the evacuation force. The Feudal Lord's House's knights should come out too. Besides..... no, anyhow, there shouldn't be any problem."

N? Right now, didn't it feel like Wald-sama was avoiding the last line?

"Buhiiii—!"

At that moment, the Orcish shout resounded again. It was louder than the one before.

Immediately after that, Allen and Elena were pulling on my clothes.

"What's the matter?"

""Onii~chan, let's go~?""

"..... Let's go you say, eh? To the west gate?"

""Yeah!""

"....."

..... Ahh, yeah, the two didn't give up yet.

"Don't go. You can't."

""Muu~~~""

Allen and Elena became sullen at Wald-sama's cautioning.

""We goingmon!""

As if to oppose Wald-sama, Allen and Elena vigorously stood up from their chars.

"Whoa! Allen, Elena!?"

I stood in panic and caught the two who were about to leave the inn.

""We going~~~""

"Alright, I got it, okay?"

When I finally gave up because they wouldn't settle otherwise, the two became obedient.

I was honestly startled by the usually obedient two's unusual reaction. Is this supposed to be that? Getting stubborn after being oppressed. But, this might be a normal reaction for children. Allen and Elena have been way too obedient until now.

""Really~?""

"Really."

"Oy, Takumi!"

"But Wald-sama, please think about it. Don't you think the damage would be larger if the two went on a rampage like this?"

"....."

When I said such to Wald-sama who was objecting, he went silent. It appears that he understands how troublesome it would be if Allen and Elena were to rampage.

"Wald-sama, you are worried about it too, aren't you? Shall we go to the west gate?"

"..... Can't be helped."

"Eh? Captain, is that alright!?"

"It's way better than them going on their own. Rather, I think Isaac already saw through this development. That's why he must have gone ahead to get the information. If not, he would normally stay here while we would be over there."

Wow. It looks like Wald-sama and Isaac-san decided on their roles with eye contact at that moment. What an amazing combination. But, because Wald-sama has reluctantly agreed, we decided to go to the west gate on a separate route to avoid the crowd.

"Huh?"

After arriving at the west gate and seeing the soldiers and adventurers coming in and out, I noticed a certain thing.

"Ah! Wald-sama, are adventurers called together in such cases too?"

"Yeah, that's right. Different ranks are called depending on the situation. Takumi didn't notice after all?"

Emergency call or something like that. Aren't I in the targeted group too then?

Come to think of it, while explaining the actions of the soldiers, Wald-sama was evasive about his last sentence.

"Eh? Wouldn't it be bad if I didn't go during the emergency call?"

"Under normal circumstances. There's no problem at the moment since you are with us."

"Is that so?"

"That is so."

I understand that Wald-sama and rest are moving under the King's orders, so their priority is that, but am I also involved in it? I don't understand well, but I will overlook it since it seems like there would be no penalty this time.

Also, I'm worried about the frequency, but I should keep emergency calls in mind.

"Oh, there he is ——Oy, Isaac."

“My, my, you arrived earlier than I expected.”

“The pipsqueaks are more stubborn than you thought, Isaac!”

“Oh my, is that so?”

When Wald-sama said such, Isaac-san looked at Allen and Elena in my arms without getting surprised.

“Monster~”

“Will defeat~”

Allen and Elena who were stared at by Isaac-san cheerfully raised their fists. Then, Isaac-san made a consenting expression after hearing the two's words full of eagerness.

“So, what's the situation?”

“It's not that sweet.”

When Wald-sama asked about the situation, Isaac-san's expression changed.

“Hahh? The opponents are Orcs, right? They might have numbers, but our higher war potential should manage, right?”

“That's..... there are a superior species.”

“What!? Superior species?”

“Yes. Its appearance has not been confirmed yet, but the Orcs' leadership is secured and their numbers aren't quite going down.”

Superior species, huh. Something like this wouldn't happen if it was just a High Orc, so it must be something even above that. It must be either Orc General or Orc King.

“Who is in command here?”

“A person called Gregory, he's the Knight Captain of the Feudal Lord's House.”

“Don't know him.”

“Well, he's mainly serving the Feudal Lord after all.”

“I see. Let's go see him first. Hey, Takumi. You are going too.”

“..... Roger.”

It seems that Wald-sama wants to see the person in charge first, but..... apparently together with me.

Allen and Elena are itching to fight, but as expected it's not like I can release them into such chaos, so let's accompany Wald-sama here~

## Chapter 101

Assembly

When we got out of the gate, I could see a group of orcs advancing towards the town and figures of soldiers and adventurers trying to block them. It appears that the strength of their forces is similar, they advance and retreat in turns. Isaac-san said the situation wasn't favorable, but the damages caused by the orcs seems to be low.

While glancing at the situation, I walked with Wald-sama and rest towards the knights—

""Water Jet.""

“—— Hey!!”

Allen and Elena suddenly fired magic towards the orcs.

The released magic flew towards an advancing orc who slipped through the defenses. It was rushing towards our direction and apparently entered the two's firing range. Moreover, the orc got blown backward and stopped moving. It seems they have brought it down properly.

I kept the two in my arms as a precaution of them rushing out, but I couldn't prevent their magic.

The attention completely gathered at us who were the source of the magic.

“Takumi, what are you doing!”

“No, no, that wasn't me!”

Wald-sama who walked in the front turned around in a panic. Rather, why is he getting angry at me?

I know that! Watch the pipsqueaks properly!”

Ahh, so it's that. But you see~

“I'm preventing them from rushing out like this.”

“.....”

When I show Wald-sama how I'm holding Allen and Elena in my arms, he delicately turned away his gaze.

As expected, I can possibly take any further measures, right? As for the magic, isn't sealing their magical power the only thing left? Well, I have no intention of doing that though.

“Allen, Elena. You mustn't fire magic while people are around all of sudden like that. It would be dangerous if the people around got dragged into it, right?”

""Is fi~ne!""

While thinking of cautioning them first, the two proudly puffed out their chest in full confidence..... fine you say, do you mean you won't involve others?

They certainly aimed at an orc that separated from its group, so it's not like they could damage the people in the vicinity. It's not an exaggeration to say that they brought it down safely.

"Still, you mustn't selfishly use magic at the moment."

"".....""

When I told them that they can't use magic, the two made dissatisfied faces.

"..... When there's a suitable time to use it, I will properly ask you. Okay?"

""..... Yess~.""

They were making too displeased faces, so when I told them that I will ask them when an opportunity arises, they were reluctant, but they agreed. I feel like if I don't proactively search for opportunities, they will later sulk~

"Did you finish persuading them? Rather, the pipsqueaks can use magic, I see. They couldn't use it before, right?"

Wald-sama wondered about the children using magic.

Come to think of it, Allen and Elena learned magic after arriving to Bailey, so it's the first time he saw the children use magic.

"That's right, I taught them in Bailey, so....."

"Doesn't that mean that much time didn't pass since they learned magic! Magic of such power isn't something amateurs, much less children can do. You guys, stay out of the norm moderately please!"

For some reason, Wald-sama entered lecturing mode. Stay out of the norm moderately, he said..... even if you tell me that~

However, it's not like they went all out.....

"Wald-sama, leave it at that. The people over there noticed our presence because of the children's magic, so let's head there."

"..... Let's do that."

When I looked at the direction Isaac-san was talking about, I saw a group of splendidly armored people staring at us.

Yeah, is that the group of the commander Wald-sama wanted to meet?

"Risner-dono, these people are?"

When we approached, they asked Isaac-san whom they have already met before.

"My superior and our companion adventurer."

"I'm Grunwald Ruven. You might have heard from Isaac here already, but we are on the way to the capital and stopped by the town today. It's a state of emergency, so we came to cooperate."

"Thank you very much for your assistance. I'm Gregory Valgan. Without a delay, Ruven-dono. The magic that sent the orc from just a while ago flying, it seemed to belong to these children, but..... just what are they....."

When Wald-sama and Valgan-san finished introducing themselves, Valgan-san immediately asked about Allen and Elena. Well, it's only natural to be curious about that~

"..... Ahh, that's..... yeah."

"I'm adventurer called Takumi. These children are my younger siblings."

"Those children are adventurers too, but he as their elder brother is outside the norm——no, rather, he's a nonsensical human being, so you just have to think that the children got influenced by him."

"Wald-sama!? That way of speaking is way too rude!"

I introduced myself to Valgan-san just in case and left the rest to Wald-sama, but his words shocked me.

I recognize that I'm slightly unordinary, but nonsensical..... isn't that too cruel?

"Didn't I just say the truth!"

"No, no, no! You could have said it differently!"

"I don't have the time to explain it nicely at the moment!"

"That's true, but!"

"It has been established that it's impossible for you guys to not stand out. It would be wasteful to try patching up things after you, don't you think!"

"....."

..... Allen and Elena are already guilty of that, so I'm not able to deny that. I can't deny that, but~

"Valgan-dono, I can guarantee their ability."

"I, I see....."

..... It didn't feel like it was forced at all.

I had no choice but to crestfallenly hang my head down without saying anything.

"Bumoooooooooooo!!!"

At that time, I heard a loud war cry, and an especially huge orc appeared.

—noshi, noshi its movements weren't that fast, but it has quite the coercing power.

"Tch! The general has come."

It's the superior species, Orc General.

"Valgan-dono, wouldn't it be better to withdraw the vanguard and rally up? At this rate, our numbers will gradually be reduced."

Because the Orc General appeared, the vigor of the nearby orcs grew.

The number of soldiers and adventurers that are being sent flying obviously increased.

"However, the orcs would then approach the town."

"It's fine. We have countermeasures."

Valgan-san was flustered, but Wald-sama confidently threw out his chest.

It appears that Wald-sama has a plan. I wonder what it is?